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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Man arrested for allegedly stealing NMC's gas supply

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An Office of the Public Auditor's investigation led to the arrest on Friday of the Northern Marianas College maintenance manager for allegedly stealing the school's gasoline supply for his personal use by using NMC's open fleet card.

Phillip Aguon Fejeran Jr., 43, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday for a bail hearing on charges of theft and theft by deception.

A $5,000 cash bail was im-

See MAN on Page 4

Bill reviving handgun ban goes to the Senate

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill that hopes to again prohibit handguns in the CNMI is headed to the Senate after the House of Representatives passed it during Friday's session on Capital Hill.

HB 20-34, introduced by Rep. Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), is among the six legislative measures that would be reviewed by the Senate. If passed without amendments, it would go straight to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for enactment.

Friday was a busy day for the House, which passed HB 20-3 (e-citation implementation), 20-37 (to prohibit taking and selling certain sizes of fish species), 20-44 (mar-

See BILL on Page 4

CHCC board filled soon

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

It seems the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s five board of director slots would soon be filled after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he already has names in mind for the positions.

So far, two of the five slots are already occupied. Former senator William Cing, the resident director of the Tinian Health Center, represents Tinian on the CHCC board, while Dr. Larry B. Hocog represents Rota.

The last three vacant positions are for Saipan representatives.

According to Torres, the names would be made public by the end of this week.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he would be sending the letter for two of the three candidates he has in mind since they have already been con-

See CHCC on Page 4

Occupancy at 89 pct. in April

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported an 89.54-percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for April 2017, a 12-percent increase compared to April 2016.

Average room rates were at $131.13 during the month, compared to $127.19 last April. A total of 62,270 of 69,541 available room nights sold in April 2017, compared to 54,482 of 69,804 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

"Visitor arrivals and hotel occupancy rates continue to increase, and now is the perfect time to turn our attention to some of the related matters affecting the sustainability of this extraordinary growth," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "As part of the CNMI delegation that attended the U.S. Senate hearing on Bill

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COOKING CONTEST KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Over 50 people came out to show their support for the Sammich Competition—a grilled cheese sandwich cookoff—held at the Garapan Central Park last April 30. Proceeds raised were donated to the Salvation Army NMI Chapter to fund their feeding program.

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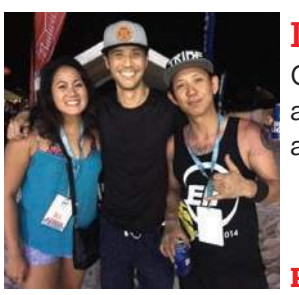

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One of Guam's most attended festivals was a hit on Saipan.
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Local

The officers and members of the Music of the Marianas Association, from left, Alfred Saures, Gus Litulumar, J.J. Concepcion, Maggie Naputi, Leo Pangelinan, Joe Limes, and Valerie Naputi. Photo sent by JJ Concepcion.

MMA: Making music for the next generation

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

MMA as an acronym for mixed-martial arts may call to mind flying karate chops and headlocks but it now also has a new meaning, this time evoking the gentler art of music writing.

Yes, MMA also now means Music of the Marianas Association, representing the group that is at the forefront of promoting and inspiring local musicians.

"MMA was organized to inspire, promote, preserve local and young musicians through music, which help strengthen our language, culture, and history," said the group's current president, John J. Concepcion.

Concepcion, who was born on Saipan and raised in Guam, had a good career in the U.S. mainland but could not resist the siren call of his motherland. He moved back to the island in 2013 with his family.

"I wanted my son to grow up on the island so he that he will know our family's roots," he said.

The trip back to Saipan gave Concepcion the opportunity to do things that he loved doing as a young boy such as to write songs that talks about the Marianas life. He is currently a firefighter by profession but, unlike embers, his passion for music never died.

MMA was established early 2017 under the initiative of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several other musicians.

"The Marianas have been waiting for an opportunity like this. MMA is a pool of local musicians—professionals or just starting. We are here to push each other up and to organize singing contests, music events and concerts," Concepcion added.

As one of its first public gig, the group was tapped to sing the national anthem last May 5, 2017, at the Marianas March Against Cancer.

"We were honored to sing the national anthem at the Marianas March Against Cancer in English, Chamorro and Carolinian," Concepcion said. "MMA is open to anyone or any event that needs entertainment."

MMA recently organized a singing contest called the 2017 Chamolinian Jam Contest that was held during the Flame Tree Art Festival last April 22, 2017. "We had a good turnout of participants with amazing talents. We support and believe in local talents," he said.

MMA's other goals are to help local musicians land entertainment jobs in hotels.

"We have a wide array of musicians that hotels can hire. Many musicians from Saipan, Tinian and Rota are looking for jobs. When I worked as a musician in a hotel in Guam, medical benefit was inclusive. Sadly, it is not the same with the hotels here on island," Concepcion said.

Currently, MMA is open for membership with no fee. The only requirements are dedication and love for local music. Musicians and dancers, whether professionals or not, are welcome to participate.

MMA's ultimate goal is to safeguard the plight of local music. "It is all about the music. We have to preserve and create awareness for the younger generation. If we do not do anything now, then the new generation will eventually won't listen or play local music. Local music provides history and helps you how to speak the local language. Music helps train your tongue," Concepcion said.

Last month, MMA collaborated with FIJI and friends who came to Saipan to do a seminar on singing. As a result, the band selected some participants to join a CD album that FIJI will produce.

"MMA cannot do it alone. We hope that the whole community will get involved. We need everyone—whether you are a musician, parent, or teacher. We also want to work with the Executive Branch and Legislature to help us reach our goals to protect, promote and preserve local music and musicians. Community comes together and we firmly believe that music can do all of that," he added.

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Better Together

Students compete in underwater robot contest

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard hosted several students during the Marine Advanced Technology Education Oahu Regional Competition at Base Honolulu, Saturday.

Nine teams from local elementary, middle and high schools competed in an underwater robotics competition focused on the use of technologies used for ocean and space science and exploration.

"We always love to partner with the community because we know that we're creating future scientists, engineers and Coasties," said Capt. Edward Sheppard, commanding officer, Coast Guard Base Honolulu. "We can help instill science, technology, engineering and math. Many of these kids will go off to colleges here in Hawaii or also on the mainland and then we might even be their future employer so it's fantastic to be here."

The contest's top winners will travel to Long Beach City College in Long Beach, Calif., to compete against the winning teams of other regional MATE international ROV competitions.

The MATE ROV competition challenges students to apply the physics, math, electronics, and engineering skills they are learning in the classroom to solving problems from the marine workplace. Mentors are expected to limit their input to educational and inspirational roles and encouraged to focus on the benefits of the learning process and not winning the competition.

The primary mission of the MATE Center is to provide the marine technical workforce with appropriately educated workers and to use marine technology to create interest in and improve STEM education.

Groups are divided into two teams determined by skill level. The Ranger class is an intermediate level of competition aimed at middle and high school teams featuring robots and missions more complex and technologically advanced. All missions are performed without looking in the pool, relying only on the sensors and cameras mounted on the ROV. The Scout class is open to novice teams in elementary through high school and introduces projects enabling students to learn the fundamentals of ROV design and construction. ***(USCG)***

Nine teams comprised of local elementary, middle and high school students participated in the Marine Advanced Technology Education Oahu Regional Competition at Coast Guard Base Honolulu, May 6, 2017. Students competed in an underwater robotics competition focused on the application of technologies used for ocean and space science and exploration. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Melissa E. McKenzie/Released

OAG, ex-cop Hocog said to be in talks to resolve drug case

The Office of the Attorney General and former police officer Victor Val Hocog, represented by his lawyer, are currently in talks to resolve Hocog's drug trafficking case.

At yesterday's status conference, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, and Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Hocog, informed Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja about their ongoing talks.

Naraja set another status conference for June 19, 2017.

Hocog appeared at the hearing.

Last March 8, the OAG charged Hocog with drug trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance. A "cooperating source" allegedly bought $240 worth of "ice" from Hocog during a sting operation in the parking lot of a store in As Lito on Sept. 15, 2016.

Hocog was arrested on Oct. 10, 2016, for the alleged Sept. 15 drug transaction. He was later released after offering to serve as a confidential informant but the court later revoked his release. Hocog was not re-arrested and was instead summoned to appear in court last March 13.

At the March 13 arraignment, Hocog pleaded not guilty of the charges.

At the March 28, 2017 status conference, Hocog did not appear, but his counsel, assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was in court. Chief Prosecutor Michelle Harris appeared for the government.

A bench warrant worth $500 for Hocog's failure to appear was held in abeyance until the next hearing. Naraja ordered Hocog to appear at the next hearing on April 3, 2017, at 9:30am.

At the April 3, 2017 status conference, Hocog again did not appear but his counsel, Nesbit, was present in court. Hinds appeared for the government. Again, Naraja held the bench warrant for Hocog in abeyance until the next hearing and ordered Hocog to be at the status conference on April 4.

At the April 4, 2017 status conference, Hocog appeared with Nesbit. Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government. Naraja then quashed the $500 bench warrant and continued the status conference for yesterday, May 8.

According to court documents, on Nov. 10, 2015, the OAG charged Hocog with criminal contempt of court.

Between Sept. 25, 2014, and Nov. 9, 2015, Hocog allegedly knowingly refused to comply with the Superior Court's order in connection with his 2014 criminal case.

Hocog was not arrested in

See OAG on Page 4

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Report approved for RMI trust fund

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands approved the Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report on March 31. The audited financial statements were completed by the independent auditor Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, on March 27 and presented to the Committee on April 7.

Both reports were released to the respective governments.

The Fund's restricted fiduciary net position value increased 19.2 percent to $294,545,533 for FY16 from $247,142,058 for FY15. The increase was primarily due to gross investment income of $28,071,341 and contributions from the U.S. government of $15,323,100, Taiwan of $2,400,000, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands of $2,200,000. There was a net investment gain of $27,646,543.

The Fund had a weighted annual rate of return of 10.37 percent, following a loss of 4.13 percent for FY15 and three consecutive growth years: 8.0 percent for FY14, 13.9 percent for FY13, and 18.5 percent for FY12. Overall, on a performance basis, net of fees, the Fund has had a 6.67-percent return since inception, above the benchmark return of 6.35 percent.

Total investment and administrative expenses decreased to 0.70 percent of restricted fiduciary net position in FY16 from 0.76 percent in FY15. Investment expenses increased in dollar value but decreased to 0.64 percent of restricted fiduciary net position from 0.68 percent in FY15. Administrative expenses decreased in dollar value and as a percent of restricted fiduciary net position to 0.06 percent from 0.08 percent.

The FY16 audit performed by Baker Tilly was completed on time and according to U.S Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. There were no audit findings.

The Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands was established by the Compact of Free Association, as codified in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (U.S. Public Law 108-188, December 17, 2003). The Trust Fund's purpose is to contribute to the economic advancement and long-term budgetary self-reliance of the RMI by providing a source of revenue for the government and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands when certain grants under the Amended Compact of Free Association expire in 2023. ***(PR)***

VEHICULAR ACCIDENT

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel remove the female driver from a car that was involved in a vehicular accident along Beach Road, Garapan yesterday afternoon. As of press time, there was no available information about the collision.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

OAG

From Page 3

this criminal contempt case; he was only summoned to appear in court on Nov. 23, 2015.

At the arraignment on Nov. 23, 2015, Hocog appeared with his counsel. He entered a plea of not guilty.

At the status conference in the criminal contempt case on Dec. 19, 2016, Hocog did not appear.

Naraja then issued bench warrant for Hocog's arrest. Bail was set at $500.

Saipan Tribune learned that the criminal contempt of court case is pending as Hocog, through counsel, appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court, arguing that his sentence in a previous criminal case does not comply with the sentencing statute and therefore illegal.

In the government's opposition to the appeal, Baisley said the Supreme Court should affirm because no illegal sentence was imposed, no separation of powers issues exist, and Naraja's involvement was limited to ensuring the plea agreement was sound.

The prior conviction was on Sept. 25, 2014, when Hocog was sentenced to 15 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance. He was given credit for 226 days of time served.

In 2011, Hocog pleaded guilty to assault and battery in a domestic violence case. Naraja sentenced him to one year in prison, all suspended except for nine days. Naraja gave him credit for nine days of time served. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MAN

From Page 1

posed on Fejeran. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as his counsel. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on May 16 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Peter Aldan, who is assigned at OPA, stated in his report that on two separate occasions in February 2012, Fejeran instructed a female student to park her car behind the NMC maintenance shop, where he then transferred gasoline from a 5-gallon container into the vehicle.

Aldan said the student, who was then dating Fejeran, confirmed the incident during an interview last Saturday.

Aldan said that, in September and October 2015, Fejeran allegedly instructed an NMC staff on two occasions to stand watch at the gated entrance to the NMC-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service parking area while he siphoned gasoline into a 5-gallon container out of CREES' two vehicles for his personal use.

Aldan said a Shell Dandan receipt issued last March 7 showed a total of 16 gallons of gasoline worth $63 were purchased by Fejeran using an open container.

Later that same day, a Shell Dandan receipt showed that Fejeran bought 15 more gallons of gasoline worth $59.49 using an open container.

Both purchases were made under NMC's open fleet card.

A Shell Dandan receipt issued last March 10 also showed that Fejeran bought 21 gallons of gasoline worth $81.45 using the NMC fleet card.

Aldan said the use of the gasoline could not be explained as there was no project being conducted at that time at the NMC campus.

Aldan said that, in an interview with another NMC staff, Fejeran allegedly instructed him numerous times to take a 5-gallon container full of gasoline from the NMC maintenance shop and deliver it to Fejeran's house in Lower Dandan.

The NMC staff allegedly witnessed Fejeran transferring the gasoline from the container into his personal truck.

Aldan said last May 2, Fejeran allegedly instructed the NMC staff to bring a 5-gallon container full of gasoline from the NMC shop to the Koblerville gym.

When the staff reasoned out that the gym is too far, Fejeran instead allegedly instructed him to bring the gasoline to his house. Fejeran then allegedly transferred the gasoline into his vehicle.

The staff alleged that Fejeran has been acquiring gasoline from the NMC maintenance shop for his personal use for the past several years.

Aldan said that in June 2015, Fejeran also allegedly instructed an NMC maintenance staff to bring three rolls of electrical wire from the NMC maintenance shop to the residence of Fejeran's brother-in-law in Dandan.

Allegedly at Fejeran's instruction, the NMC staff installed 30 feet of electrical wirings at a gazebo at the Dandan house.

Aldan said that during an interview last Friday, the house owner confirmed that Fejeran offered the electrical wirings to him and for someone to install them at his gazebo for free.

BILL

From Page 1

riage license fees), 20-45 (to establish two new public highways on Saipan), and 20-48 (to prohibit under-18 persons to serve alcoholic beverages). That's on top of four resolutions being adopted.

HB 20-34 aims to repeal Section 3 of Public Law 19-42 and revive former 6 CMC 2222 (e), which states that no person is allowed to import, sell, transfer, give away, purchase, possess, or use handguns or automatic weapons.

Sablan said HB 20-34 is a safety net bill since it has always been his position that handguns have no place in the CNMI.

"We are a small island community and we can't compare ourselves with other jurisdictions. The safety of the public is our main concern here," he said.

He said his bill ensures the safety of the community. He believes CNMI laws did not deprive any citizen of their right to own firearms. Rifles, shotguns, and caliber .22 or .223 are allowed.

Lawyer Joseph Horey, who represented the Tanapag Middle School Parents-Teachers-Students Association, spoke in support of HB 20-34, saying that public safety is their main concern, that's why they are lobbying for the prohibition on handguns.

"From a school's perspective, we're concerned of school shootings. We think it was better before and parents are concerned so we've decided to get involved in the case. Handguns can be easily carried," said Horey.

He added that right now there's a pending appeal on the Radich case and, once the law passes, the CNMI would go back to banning handguns.

Horey said he respects Radich's rights but people have different perspectives. "It is a balance that you have to do and to consider. …Is it better for public safety for people may have access to [handguns] or not? Our position in the PTSA is overall safety of the community."

He added the bill's purpose revives the prohibition on the importation, sale, and possession of handguns, "which we used to have here under CNMI."

HB 20-34 states that a handgun prohibition has protected public safety and better accorded with the wishes of the people of the CNMI.

CHCC

From Page 1

tacted. Torres mentioned that the two candidates he has spoken with are willing to take on the responsibilities.

"Until I personally send a letter to the CNMI Senate, it is not public. Those that will be appointed will definitely be assisting the administration," said Torres.

Aside from saying that two of the three candidates have already accepted his offer, the governor did not disclose their qualifications.

"We actually already spoke to two of them. Both of them already said they would accept, so I need to officially appoint them, which would be by the end of this week."

CNMI Public Law 19-78, which was signed into law by Torres last Jan. 14, 2017, transformed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s board from an advisory role to a governing one, giving it control over the corporation's daily operations, functions, and activities.

Immediately after the passage of the law, Torres urged the Legislature to enact measures to ensure that the board would adhere to the regulations of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. The Legislature has yet to come up with such measures.

OCCUPANCY

From Page 1

339 in Washington, D.C. last month, it is imperative that we as a business community work hard to show why the CNMI continues to need the CW visa program and how critical it is for our economy for the program to continue. Although there have been current circumstances regarding negative labor practices, we must join together to show that this is not condoned and, most especially, not indicative of the business community as a whole. We have a lot of work to do to show our business integrity and we need everyone to join in to ensure that the CNMI receives the chance to have a self-sufficient economy today and in the future."

"Secondly, HANMI is very excited about SB 20-35, which will help pave the way for renovations by our member hotels on public land," said Cavanagh. "We sincerely thank Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) for introducing the bill and the 20th Legislature for considering action to make it possible for long-time hotels to invest in upgrades for our facilities and help keep the Marianas competitive as a modern tourism destination. It is time to put this hurdle aside and show commitment to our long-term investors that have been here through thick and thin. We applaud our lawmakers for moving this bill through and are hopeful to know that there is an attempt to provide the Marianas with the vehicle to succeed. Although we have achieved average hotel room rates and average occupancy rates have been breaking long-held records, this will not continue if we are unable maintain a competitive edge."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(HANMI)***

Women face higher risk of blindness than men

Studies show there is a gender gap in eye disease. Women are more likely than men to suffer from sight-threatening conditions such as age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma. In support of Healthy Vision Month in May, Marianas Eye Institute and the American Academy of Ophthalmology remind women to make vision a top priority.

Women make up 65 percent of macular degeneration cases, 61 percent of glaucoma and cataract patients are women, and 66 percent of blind patients are women. Why the inequity? There are a few theories. On average women live longer and many eye problems are age-related. Some eye conditions, such as dry eye, are more common in women, young and old. Social and economic factors affect women's access to eye care, especially in developing countries.

Whatever the cause, there are a few unique vision problems women need to watch out for more than men. Dry eye occurs at double the rate in postmenopausal women. In general, women are more susceptible to autoimmune diseases than men, many of which affect vision, such as lupus, Sjogren's syndrome and hyperthyroidism. Also, pregnancy can cause vision changes due to the hormones pregnant women experience.

Good news is most vision loss is preventable. Marianas Eye Institute and the academy offer five simple steps to take control of your eye health today:

■ Get a comprehensive medical eye exam at 40. Early signs of disease or changes in vision may begin at this age. An exam by one of Marianas Eye Institute's specialists is an opportunity to carefully examine the eye for diseases and conditions that may have no symptoms in the early stages.

■ Know your family history. Certain eye diseases can be inherited. If you have a close relative with macular degeneration, you have a 50 percent chance of developing this condition. A family history of glaucoma increases your glaucoma risk by four to nine times. Talk to family members about their eye conditions. It can help you and your eye specialist evaluate your risk.

■ Eat healthy food. A diet low in fat and rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains benefits the entire body, including the eyes. Eye-healthy food choices include citrus fruits, vegetable oils, nuts, whole grains, dark green leafy vegetables and cold water fish.

■ Stop smoking. Smoking increases the risk for eye diseases such as cataract and age-related macular degeneration. Smoking also raises the risk for cardiovascular diseases, which can indirectly influence your eye health. Tobacco smoke, including secondhand smoke, also worsens dry eye.

■ Wear sunglasses. Exposure to ultraviolet UV light raises the risk of eye diseases, including cataract, fleshy growths on the eye, and cancer. Always wear sunglasses with 100 percent UV protection and a hat while enjoying time outdoors.

"Eye exams aren't only about checking a person's visual acuity or sharpness, but also determining the overall health of their eyes," said Rebecca J. Taylor, MD, clinical spokesperson for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. "We encourage women as well as men to get regular eye care. By making vision a priority today, we can help protect our sight as we age."

"We know that women in the CNMI drive most of their family's healthcare decisions. They are often the leaders in their families," said Russ Quinn, CEO of Marianas Eye Institute. "Yet the statistics clearly show that women are at higher risk for eye disease, and we encourage all the CNMI's women to make sure their own care receives priority."

To learn more ways to keep your eyes healthy, visit the Marianas Eye Institute website. ***(PR)***

Studies show there is a gender gap in eye disease. Women are more likely than men to suffer from sight-threatening conditions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mag accepting Health Care Hero noms

BARRIGADA, Guam—*Guam Business Magazine* is accepting nominations for its first-ever feature on the region's "Health Care Heroes."

Nominees can be medical or dental practitioners, entrepreneurs, administrators or volunteers; auxiliary health care providers; or health care–related centers or organizations that demonstrably support the advancement and improvement of health care services in our islands.

Those selected as Health Care Heroes will be featured in the July-August issue of *Guam Business Magazine*, though all submissions will receive coverage.

Nominations are due Wednesday, May 10, to managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com and should include the following:

■ Nominee's name

■ Nominee's title/area of practice

■ Nominee's organization, clinic or hospital

■ What makes this person or organization a Health Care Hero?

■ Contact information for the nominee

■ Contact information for the nominee's business/organization

For additional information, contact Jackie Hanson, managing editor of *Guam Business Magazine*, at (671) 649-0883 ext. 126 or email managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com. ***(PR)***

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Odd but delicious: A rare combo

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Food commonly associated with the Filipino culture includes adobo, lechon, bulalo, and the never forgotten sinigang. What most people are unaware of, including some Filipinos themselves, is what is called cansi—a hot and sour soup of the Ilonggo region in the Philippines.

Cansi is the specialty of Oink Café, a newly-opened, 12-seat Filipino restaurant that specializes in Ilonggo cuisine, a region in the Philippines that loves their batchoy, chicken inasal, and cansi. Fortunately, for those interested in these food, Oink Café is a café-restaurant that serves all three dishes as their specialty, among many others.

Contrary to what its name suggests, Oink Café does not only serve pork but also beef, chicken, fish, and the occasional vegetable dish.

According to couple Windy and Patrick Fernandez, cansi could be considered a combination of bulalo and sinigang—a combination that not many Filipinos have even heard of. Bulalo is a savory Filipino stew that involves long hours of cooking and beef shank marrow. The flavor of the marrow, combined with the slight sourness of sinigang, allows for a flavorful experience that is one-of-a-kind and even more appetizing as one digs in.

Two of Oink Café's specialty dishes: traditional batchoy, left, and traditional Ilonggo cansi.
ERWIN ENCINARES

"We plan to expand our menu as time goes by, but, as of now, since we prepare a meal for the day, we'd like to see how it goes," said Patrick.

Oink Café's other two specialties—batchoy and chicken inasal—are both popular food in the Philippines. Batchoy consists of pig innards in a special broth with egg noodles topped with onion chives and chicharon (pork rinds)—a perfect snack for those on the go. Chicken inasal is the Ilonggo version of grilled chicken that is usually marinated in a mixture of lime, pepper, vinegar, and annatto.

When asked about permanent vegetarian-friendly menu items, Patrick said that Oink Café has no plans yet. Oink Café does plan to introduce the CNMI to Amadeo coffee, a coffee bean harvested from a municipality of the same name in the Philippines.

The five-staff café is also proud to pronounce that they are currently one of the few restaurants on island that delivers food for free within Garapan. Oink Café charges a $1 fee for locations outside of Garapan while negotiations may be in order for farther places such as Kagman.

Oink Café is situated directly across LBC in Garapan. The secluded place will remain so until the café is able to attract more customers, according to Patrick.

For the less adventurous, Oink Café offers popular Filipino dishes as well such as beef tapa, pork adobo, pork sisig, chicken adobo, fried milkfish, pork barbecue, pork longganisa, embutido, pork tocino, spam, corned beef, and lumpiang shanghai, with each order coming in at less that $5 without rice. For an additional $1, one has the option to go for plain, garlic, or java rice as a side.

Desserts are also available while supplies last. Oink Café boasts of freshly made leche flan and Brazo de Mercedes for no more than $3 per serving.

Oink Café offers a popular Filipino sweet beverage called gulaman. Oink Café's twist adds a pinkish hue to the sweet beverage, making it more appealing. It also has coffee and a variety of canned soda.

Oink Café also sells traditional Ilonggo treats such as piaya, toasted mamon, ugoy ugoy, and biscocho, to name a few.
ERWIN ENCINARES

Though Oink Café is not ready to start catering, it is open to parties despite its small capacity. Oink Café serves more of a personal experience through their small area of operation, making it a great place for personal gatherings and small parties.

For more information and for deliveries, call Oink Café at 989-8638.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Saipan Commuter Terminal & Parking lot Closure

Effective May 8, 2017, The Saipan Commuter Terminal and the Commuter Parking lot will be closed from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily.

Call Ports Police at (670) 237-6529/6523 should you need access to the Commuter Terminal.

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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director, DCRM

ZONE D SAIPAN HOUSING PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED

This is to give notice that the public hearing scheduled for May 17, 2017 for the proposed Zone D Saipan Housing Project in Chalan Piao, Saipan has been postponed until further notice.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Zone D Development Major Siting permit application for the Saipan Housing project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Saipan to host environment conference

Registration is now open for the 29th Pacific Islands Environment Conference, which Saipan will be hosting from June 13 to 15 at the Saipan World Resort, with DisasterDoc founder Dr. Mark Keim as the guest speaker.

Registration for the three-day event, which has the theme "A Sustainable Pacific: Preparing for Change; Voyaging with Knowledge, can be done at becq.gov.mp and the fee is $50 each for three days or $20 for one day.

The dangers of climate change and island resilience, approaches to sustainable development, and the connections between public health and the environment will be the focus of the conference.

Keim is one of the world's recognized disaster medical experts and founded nonprofit group DisasterDoc to spread awareness in understanding disasters in order to be able to protect people, their families, and their communities.

Keim worked at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 16 years and had shared his life-saving knowledge around the world by being an author, speaker, and consultant.

Keim is currently a disaster medicine professor at the Harvard Medical School and public health at Emory University in Druid Hills, Georgia. He is a former member of the White House Subcommittee for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Alexis Straus will be the opening speaker. Region 9 or the Pacific Southwest Region has 50 million people spread out in the Pacific Islands, and the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, and it is composed of 148 tribal nations.

More than 300 delegates working or connected in environmental protection agencies, government and nonprofit, are expected to attend the conference. Delegates from American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the U.S., and other countries are joining.

How to address issues on safe drinking water, public health, toxic waste, and air pollution are some the challenges Pacific Islanders are facing now due to climate change, development, and emerging health concerns.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program will also hold a session on the first day and a whole day workshop on June 16.

More information is available at de1.gov.mp. ***(Jon Perez)***

Latte Training Academy offers Founders Scholarship Program

The Latte Training Academy Inc., a 501c3 non-profit, has announced the opening of its Founders Scholarship Program for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. The program, which is broken into several distinct scholarship funds, will offer $11,000 in college scholarships to eligible applicants.

"We are continually inspired by the people that have gone through the various Latte Training Academy certification programs. We have always thought of our programs as a launching point for those wanting to gain access to a career and understand the necessity for continual professional growth. As a result, we have committed $11,000 annually to support our participants in their career growth," said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez.

The scholarship program pays homage to the founding board members of the organization, Arielle Buyum, Jeremy Sasamoto, and Julian Aguon.

The program is designed to award scholarships in the areas of specific interests to each of the founding members, including The Jeremy Sasamoto Scholarship Fund, the Julian Aguon Humanitarian Fund, and the Arielle Buyum Healthcare & Women in Business Fund. Each one of the funds awards two $1,000 scholarships, while the Marianas Hospitality Fund offers three $1,000 scholarships and one $2,000 scholarship.

"We encourage all past and present LTA participants to apply for funding this year. We have streamlined the application process, expanded the eligibility criteria to be more inclusive, and have simplified the documentation requirements. We hope that many of our participants look to the success of our past scholarship recipients as a motivation to apply," said Ed Arriola, Jr., LTA treasurer.

Last year's awardees included CNMI graduates Eloise Lopez, Sam Esturas, Angel Mar Pamintuan and You Na Lee. Unlike last year, the Latte Training Academy is expanding the eligibility to all Latte Training Academy program participants who have completed certification within the past three years. The application deadline is June 15, 2017, with awards being announced by Aug. 1, 2017. Scholarship eligibility requirements and application can be found at www.lattetrainingacademy.com. ***(PR)***

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Cruz takes over Dolphin Battalion commander post

The Dolphin Battalion of Marianas High School held its change of command ceremony last April 28, 2017, with upcoming senior cadet Lt. Col. ReavenJei Cruz taking over as the battalion commander alongside cadet Maj. Isabel Palacios as the battalion's executive officer.

Cruz and Palacios will be succeeding outgoing battalion commander Chekaina Coloma and executive officer Kaela Valencia.

Leading the ceremony was cadet Sgt. Kenisha Roque, who acknowledged the battalion's cadets and cited Cruz's patriotism, valor, and fidelity or being chosen as the new battalion commander.

Present during the turnover ceremony was Cruz's mother and Palacios' parents.

In his remarks at the change of command ceremony, Dolphin Battalion senior Army instructor Lt. Col. Ramon Ichihara said: "I hope one of you aspires to be one of the two in the future, you guys have a lot of potential. I hope to see every one of you try to be one of them" said Ichihara.

In her last speech to the battalion, outgoing commander Chekaina Coloma said: "It was an amazing school year. ..Without you guys as cadets in the battalion, we wouldn't make it through the school year."

Cruz gave thanks to Coloma "for her leadership, guidance, and for trusting me to take over the battalion. Without her, my family and friends, my fellow staff and drill team, my sabre guard team, and my instructors, today will not be possible, they all helped be the person I am today. …Leadership comes with many skills that require commitment, passion, and the desire to be an inspiration to others."

Passing the annual JPA inspection for next school year is Cruz's goal as she and some the cadets want to continue learning in the program.

A small gathering was held after the ceremony to celebrate the new battalion commander and battalion executive officer. ***(Mackenzie Rae Perez)***

MACKENZIE RAE PEREZ
Battalion cadets and staff pose for a picture after the ceremony.

MACKENZIE RAE PEREZ
New battalion commander Reaven Cruz, left, Senior Army Instructor Lt. Col. Ramon Ichihara, right, battalion CSM Samuel Borja, far left, and outgoing battalion commander Chekaina Coloma, far right, during the passing of the battalion colors.

MACKENZIE RAE PEREZ
Cadet Lt. Col. Reaven Cruz and her mother Paulette Sablan.

'Share the Experience' photo contest winners named

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior, along with the National Park Foundation and other participating federal recreation land agencies, recently announced the winners of the 2016 Share the Experience photography contest on the agency's popular Instagram account and launched the 2017 contest.

This annual contest invites amateur photographers to submit their favorite views, moments, and adventures from America's national parks and public lands. The winning picture, captured by Craig McIntyre of Rockport, Texas, will be featured on the annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.

"These incredible photos represent some of America's best recreation, wilderness and wildlife, and I'm happy to have the opportunity to share them with the nation," said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. "Expanding access for hunting, fishing, motorized recreation, hiking and more is a cornerstone of my agenda for America's public lands. From riders kicking up dirt at the White Ridge Trail System in New Mexico to the amazing sunset behind Lake Mead and the Hoover Dam, the photos showcase that these places are truly for 'the benefit and enjoyment of the people.' Hopefully they inspire some young people to get outside and enjoy it."

More than 16,500 photos were submitted with more than 710,000 photo views over the course of the contest, which ran from April 28, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2016. The contest saw a 50 percent increase in new users and almost a 10 percent increase in overall photo submissions from the previous contest year.

"Photos have the power to inspire curiosity about our national parks and public lands," said Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation. "This contest motivates people to get out, find their park, and enjoy these treasured places."

Dabbling in wildlife photography since the early 1970s, grand prize winner Craig McIntyre of Rockport, Texas and his wife make weekly visits to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge during the summer months.

CRAIG MCINTYRE
Dabbling in wildlife photography since the early 1970s, grand prize winner Craig McIntyre of Rockport, Texas and his wife make weekly visits to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge during the summer months.

"I like photographing the frogs because they're artistic—little reptiles and amphibians are gorgeous to me. I've been studying them for 60 years now—patterns, designs, and their behavior all fascinate me," said McIntyre. "Public lands are very important to me, especially places like Big Bend National Park, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, and South Padre Island National Seashore. These places and the habitat need to be protected."

Second place went to Gary Hamer of Robins, Iowa, for the serene shot of his friends paddling off on a morning adventure surrounded by calm water and rising fog in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, part of Superior National Forest, in northeastern Minnesota.

Third place went to Christopher Regala of Mililani, Hawaii, for the photo he snapped of his son experiencing The Narrows at Zion National Park in Utah.

The grand prize for the winning image is $10,000, followed by $5,000 and $3,000 for second and third place. Winners also receive outdoor gear provided by Celestron and Osprey Packs, hotel packages courtesy of Historic Hotels of America® and an annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass. Prizes are awarded for fan favorites and the following six category winners:

- Adventure and Outdoor Recreation
- Historical and Cultural
- Scenic, Seasons, and Landscapes
- Family, Friends, and Fun
- Wildlife
- Night Skies

The 2017 Share the Experience photo contest, sponsored by the National Park Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and Recreation.gov, is now accepting entries through December 31. All entries have the chance to be featured on the Interior Department's popular Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts.

Share the Experience is the official photo contest of America's national parks and federal recreational lands, showcasing the more than 500 million acres of federal lands and drawing entries from all across the United States. For a full listing of prizing and rules, or to submit a photo, visit www.sharetheexperience.org.

Share the Experience is a great example of the countless ways there are t#FindYourPark/#EncuentraTuParque—a public awareness and education movement to inspire people from all backgrounds to connect with, celebrate, and support America's national parks and community-based programs. #FindYourPark invites people to discover and share their own unique connections to our nation's natural landscapes, vibrant culture, and rich history. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Weightlifting Federation meeting set

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold a meeting on Saturday, May 13, starting at 1pm at the NMPASI conference room. All weightlifters and persons interested in supporting the sport of weightlifting in the CNMI are invited. We will be discussing upcoming competitions and fundraising. ***(PR)***

Tourism Month graphic art design contest

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Marianas Tourism Education Council are holding a Tourism Month 2017 Graphic Arts Design Contest for CNMI students in grades 6-12. Submissions must be an original digital design with the words "See My Marianas" featuring a site/location in the Marianas that the artist would encourage people to visit. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2017. Prizes begin at $150 cash plus $150 Taste of the Marianas tokens for first place. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2017. For contest guidelines, visit www.mymaianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Notice to Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries

This notice applies to the Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries who are having their monthly benefit checks directly deposited to their account at Bank of Guam. Effective June 1, 2017, Bank of Guam will no longer perform this service for you. In the interim, until PSTF can establish an automatic deposit clearing, PSTF will be mailing your benefit check to your mailing address on file. Contact the PSTF Administration Office at telephone number 322-9753 to confirm your current mailing address by June 1, 2017. The PSTF office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to noon and from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

Storyboard 16 to Launch May 12

MANGILAO, Guam—The 16TH issue of the University of Guam's literary journal *Storyboard* features a wonderful collection of poetry, prose and visual art exploring the unique identity, culture and history of the people of Guam and the greater Micronesian region. The University of Guam Press and the UOG Division of English and Applied Linguistics will launch the journal on Friday, May 12, from 6m to 7:30pm in the atrium of the UOG English and Communications building.

An editorial board of UOG faculty members reviewed 143 submissions and selected 25 pieces. Many of the writers and artists featured in *Storyboard 16* will be present at the launch to share and discuss their work. The current and past issues of *Storyboard* will also be available for sale. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

NMC extends deadline to obtain a Charter Day booth

Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the college's 36th annual Charter Day celebration on Friday, May 12, 2017. The deadline to submit booth applications as been extended to Wednesday May 10, 2017. Booth applications forms must be submitted by Friday, May 10, 2017, by 4pm. Note, however, that booth spaces are limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible. The booth fee is $150 for all commercial vendors but for student clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75. Applications forms are available for download at www.marianas.edu, or can be picked up from the NMC CDI Office. ***(NMC)***

Register now for Chamber's Corporate Challenge

The 17th annual Corporate Challenge will be held on May 28, 2017, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting Chamber member businesses to join in the competition to win the title of Corporate Challenge champions. The Chamber is now accepting company team registrations. Space is limited to the first registered teams. The deadline for registration will be on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 5pm. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later. The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Participants sought in research

Those who participated in the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers project in 2006 are being invited to take part in a research project conducted by a CNMI resident Jennifer Furey Maratita. In 2006, young writers were asked to contribute to a book, titled We Drank Our Tears: Memories of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian as Told by Our Elders (Tuten-Puckett, 2004). Maratita's research questions will focus on the understanding of the impact this project had and its relevance in your life nowadays. The impacts of shared narratives across generations in the CNMI are of special concern. For more information, email Maratita at jennifer.maratita@waldenu.edu or call/text (670) 483-3879. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

House health care bill is a big step backward for those with pre-existing conditions

Today, Bethany Gladhill's daughter Beatrix is an active 9-year-old who enjoys dance and school. But right after she was born, Beatrix was diagnosed with a heart valve anomaly. After a family job loss, which meant no more employee health benefits, Gladhill soon found that she couldn't add baby Beatrix to the new health plan she and her husband purchased on the individual market.

Their infant had a "pre-existing condition," their health insurance broker told them. The St. Paul, Minn., couple, who continue to work as consultants, were stunned. Said Gladhill: "It's the honest inability as a parent to believe that nobody cares enough about your newborn to cover them with insurance and there is nothing you can do about it."

Eventually, the family did get coverage for Beatrix through Minnesota's old "high-risk pool" insurance program, but at a cost _ they had to buy a separate plan for her with higher premiums, a narrow medical provider network and two annual deductibles totaling around $10,000. After President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act passed, the couple could finally buy a family plan, one with the same clinics, one set of bills and a deductible of $4,000. "The costs went down by half. It was huge," Gladhill said.

As congressional Republicans work to pass their plan to replace the ACA, it's important to remember that families like Beatrix's could be caught up in one of the legislation's biggest and most objectionable changes. The bill, which regrettably passed the House on Thursday, allows for a return to a reprehensible era when insurers could reject coverage for an infant or anyone else with pre-existing ailments.

Assurances from GOP leadership that the newly revised bill would instead provide "multiple layers of protection" for those with pre-existing conditions are disingenuous at best. The GOP plan, known as the American Health Care Act (AHCA), proposes that those denied commercial coverage get insurance through high-risk pools _ the type of program that Gladhill relied on.

While Minnesota's high-risk pool worked relatively well compared with other states', Gladhill's experience illustrates drawbacks. Premiums are often much higher than commercial rates, causing people to drop out or not sign up. Separate deductibles add to consumer expenses. Some

See HOUSE on Next Page

I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO THE REASONS I LOST THE ELECTION AND IT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR...
COMEY AND PUTIN...
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

A push for the third rail of conservation

Editor's Note: The following is the winning speech the author delivered at the 33rd Annual Attorney General's Cup speech competition last Friday at the Guma Hustitia in Susupe.

Tell them we have seen it rising,
flooding across our cemeteries, gushing over our sea walls…
Tell them we don't know of the politics or the science
but…we see what's in our backyard.
[And] tell them…we don't want to leave
[because] we are nothing without our islands."

By ZENO C. DELEON GUERRERO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

On Sept. 23, 2014, with her husband and newborn child by her side, a young Marshallese poet, Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, spoke these words to the United Nations, delivering her now famous poem, "Tell Them." With a standing ovation, it was a moving call to action that inspired hope across the world to save our islands from sinking into the sea.

Unfortunately, two and a half years later, with countries backing out of the Paris Climate Accord, business interests trumping the environment and sea levels continuing to rise, one thing is clear: nothing has changed, leaving us to wonder if Jetnil-Kijiner's poem of hope was nothing more than a message in a bottle lost in a rising sea of empty promises, political apathy, and environmental decay.

Today's topic, though, gives us a chance to find that bottle, hear its message, and make a difference. Today, we can finally listen to what Jetnil-Kijiner, scientists, and our ancestors have been telling us all along: take care of our islands, take care of our planet, take care of our home.

That is why we must work through the challenges of federalism in order to protect our natural resources. To do that, I will discuss three aspects of today's topic.

First, I will examine how federalism operates here in the CNMI.

Second, I will critique local and federal efforts to protect our natural resources.

Third and last, I will propose how federal and local officials can protect our environment, especially within the context of the Antiquities Act, the Endangered Species Act, and marine sanctuaries and conservation areas.

To begin with, let us take a look at federalism.

As set forth by the 10th Amendment, federalism divides powers between the states and the national government. And although the Covenant excluded the 10th Amendment, it did so in order to uphold our internal sovereignty. In political theory, this is called dual federalism, with some powers granted to the central federal government, and all remaining powers reserved for the states and our Commonwealth.

However, in contrast to this *de jure* concept of dual federalism, the de facto reality is one of coercive federalism. As Paul Posner from George Mason University has argued, the centralization of federal power that started during World War II has intensified over the past 40 years.

At the national level, this has led to a wide range of preemptive statutes, unfunded mandates, and regulatory overreach. At the local level, we have seen this coercive federalism in our labor and immigration system, intrusive federal oversight, and decisions made by officials thousands of miles away who know almost nothing about who we are and what we face.

This coercive system reflects one simple fact: the federal government has become too powerful. You would think, then, that with all that power, the U.S. government could effectively protect our environment.

Sadly, though, that has not been the case, which brings me to my second point: Our leaders have failed to protect our natural resources.

U.S. environmental policy has been woefully inadequate, whether it be the Bush administration's refusal to adopt the Kyoto Protocol, the Trump administration backing out of the Paris Climate Accord, or an EPA director that doesn't believe in the science of global warming.

As if that weren't bad enough, the federal government has also supported business interests over the environment, such as the Trump administration's approval of the Dakota Access pipeline or its call for more coal mining.

The federal government also has a terrible track record here,

See PUSH on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Damage control

So, we've had an oops and now, many are up in arms about illegal workers and illegal residents.

We all knew of their existence but because of the biggest project on Saipan, we turned a blind eye and fudged the numbers but, once the word got out of a fatal accident at the BSI hotel and casino, the fingers popped up and the blame game started. Was he a tourist? If so, who authorized him to work without proper papers? What happened to the one-on-one work-training program?

That's why the CNMI is having a problem with the U.S. government. It's our Department of Labor and our OSHA issue. Not immigration. Immigration is now being handled by the U.S. It's supposed to monitor these entries. Should we blame U.S. Immigration for those who came in as tourists but are working at construction sites? Or at other places? Should we be blamed for their misdemeanors? The FBI found a whole lot of them.

Let's get down to the nitty-gritty. Those tourists took it upon themselves to come and work. There is a big construction project. Should the U.S. blame us for that? That's labor. They are already in the CNMI, not trying to. As with the old story, the garment industry fiasco. Did the government create an immigration abuse? These people are already in the CNMI, working. That's labor, not immigration. Hmm, let's see.

Some of our leaders took part in the negotiations with IPI prior to their coming to Saipan, right? Did someone forget to mention the fact that we do not have enough U.S. citizen laborers but we, also, do not control our immigration system therefore jeopardizing billions in much needed investments? And now, we are screaming for action, sanctions, new laws, burn, burn, burn. Slow down a second. Think of the consequences of any and all actions from all parties.

Wait, did I say accident? Don't we have government agencies responsible for checking the worksite for potential issues, hazards, and compliance issues? Can we see a record of who and when people actually inspected before and during construction and after the accident? So, what now? How about we start with owning up to our responsibilities and mistakes, then doing our jobs to ensure accidents are prevented, if at all possible? This is better than engaging in damage control *ex post facto*, right? In the meantime, what's happening with the casino/hotel construction sites? Has work slowed to a crawl? And is the extension for the casino facility at the DFS building an indication that there are many problems and the grand opening is delayed indefinitely? Just checking.

All the threats being leveled at our visitors, tourists, investors and workers only serve to slow down many economic activity, almost to a standstill. Do we really understand economics, how it works, what theory would work here? I don't think Galbraith's theory would work here. He was fired in Palau after one year. He couldn't come up with a single economic plan to move Palau forward.

I suppose it's microeconomics that I'm referring to. Is this our dream? There are several of us who say that immigration and economics go hand in hand. Let people in, and our meager economy will move forward. Money for the payroll and the infrastructure and a little profit for our business establishments. But take away immigration, the wrong target and reason, and what do you say about that? We look at the U.S. government and plead? Please, America.

The problem is not immigration. It's labor. The U.S. do want to say it's immigration that was being abused. How do you abuse the immigration system? Leave our immigration system alone. We have microeconomics, but the U.S. took away our immigration system, so we're limping. It's operating at half-throttle. Common sense dictates that we do the right thing. Do you know what is the "right thing" for us? Is it the right thing for the U.S. to unilaterally introduce a bill to take away our immigration system? Does the U.S. hate us that much just because of Abramoff and Tom DeLay, and our low garment price, and our innocent clothing labels, and our minimum wage rate, and our overstaying laborers, while the mainland-made garments were quite expensive? That's not immigration. That's labor and economy. That's an internal issue.

The U.S. seriously refuses to acknowledge the fact that we do have an inherent sovereignty. So said the United Nations. The U.S., and George Miller of Concord, CA., lookd for something they didn't like here and urged the U.S. to just come up with a U.S. legislation to take immigration away because of labor-related abuses and that will solve the business competition issue. The U.S. even took a Filipina, Ms. Abad, to the mainland to appear on San Francisco television and "curse" Saipan.

I'll continue to say that we have a solemn agreement, the Covenant between the U.S. and us, to meet and talk about our dislikes. That's why our agreement is called "The Covenant." It's a solemn, honorable document we made with Ambassador Williams, and supported by the late California congressman Phil Burton, among others. Our agreements are everything that would constitute a unique partnership. Mutual understanding between two parties, on equal term. It's a give-and-take concept. Mutuality. Equal term. That's what it is. However, the U.S. used the labor abuses as the excuse to take our immigration system, which the U.S. and we agreed that we should keep during our negotiation. Now the U.S. reneged on its promise to let us keep immigration. I think that for the U.S., we are a "muusket." "Ha polu hit na puro ha babarias."

For the most part, it's supposed to be mutual agreement. We're just waiting for the right people to stand up and start doing just that. Sure, the U.S. can come, but we have to talk and agree if something is amiss with our relationship. The 9th Circuit says that it looks to the Covenant for guideline. But be careful what you wish for! Walk carefully.

Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

A lynch mob for the CUC board

I have been following the fiasco with the CUC board and it is clear to me that we now have a lynch mob asking for their hanging without any form of due process. The idea that the Legislature made a recommendation based on "suggestion and appearance" of corruption and collusion is disturbing, to say the least. How would any person want to be branded with corruption and collusion without any real "proof"? I'm sure the average person will say "it's not fair" and they would be right.

No one ever said that maintaining and upholding the principles and values of America like "due process" was going to be easy and we should know this from the fact that *everyone* including the CUC board are innocent until *proven* guilty. Now the governor is facing a very difficult decision that I wouldn't wish on anyone, not even a judge, especially when the case was never tried, with no real proof of guilt. We should all be wondering why there hasn't been any indictments or anything formal brought against the board if there was so much collusion and corruption going on. The hearings in the Legislature do not constitute "due process" and only represents "due politics." A political solution is not the judicial solution we need, want, and deserve.

I am not trying to say the board is innocent or guilty but I am saying we should want more solid evidence before hanging the entire board. Yes, there are some things that are very questionable but questionable means we need real answers, not "suggestions and appearances." It also seems that no thought was given to the fact that some of the board members have other obligations and jobs that would be adversely affected by their removal for "collusion and corruption," giving the appearance that they have been found guilty when they were never given an opportunity to defend themselves. In fact, the Legislature's hearings were more of a "trial" of the board and the GPSM Co., where only one board member spoke but no proof was ever offered. I admire the Legislature for taking an interest in the matter but to issue a conviction recommendation was not right or fair to the board, GPSM and the governor who is now being asked to violate his fiduciary duty to the Constitution, the board members' rights and plain old-common sense to be fair and objective.

All boards retain the "right" to go into executive session and just because a member of the Legislature was against the CUC board going into executive session they are now being charged with all kinds of wrongdoing based on no facts about what was said or done in the executive session. This is just one reason why "formal charges" need to be levied so that the records of the executive sessions can be made public. When I was on the PSS board there were many times we went into executive session because of the sensitivity of the matter and no one on the board, including myself, wanted the matter blown out of proportion by making it public.

I was once of those who previously complained about the CUC board long ago and I even tried recently to become a member but I am a person who seeks solutions and I do not carry grudges or a chip on my shoulder, which I could have easily done with this issue. I also wanted to put my two cents in because I know what is right and fair because a lynch mob never really solved any problems. So are we now going to change every board that goes into executive session because someone doesn't like it? We are a nation of laws, principles, and values, not lynch mobs, and we should uphold all the attributes of our great nation regardless of the challenge.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

HOUSE

From Page 10

states capped enrollment because of soaring costs. The Minnesota program's claims totaled $298 million in 2013.

The AHCA does propose providing federal funding for new high-risk pools. But experts have concluded that the $130 billion provided over 10 years falls far short of what is needed: $327 billion. Against that backdrop, the revised AHCA amendment adding $8 billion over five years is a pittance. That this addition was enough to get moderate GOP holdouts to vote yes is outrageous. They either don't understand, or don't care, that those who need health care the most may be priced out of coverage.

There are many other reasons to oppose the AHCA. One key point: Insurers would also be allowed to charge older people more and the bill would provide less tax credit assistance for many of them. In addition, Republicans rushed a vote on the bill Thursday without an analysis on the revised bill from the Congressional Budget Office, meaning it's unclear how many people might lose coverage and how much the bill would cost.

A previous CBO analysis of the unrevised AHCA concluded that 24 million fewer people would be covered than under the ACA by 2026. In addition, $880 billion would be cut over the next decade from the Medicaid program _ which provides long-term care for the elderly and medical coverage for more than 30 million children.

The nation's doctors, nurses and hospitals oppose the AHCA. Members of the Senate, where the bill goes next, now need to be the adults in the room.

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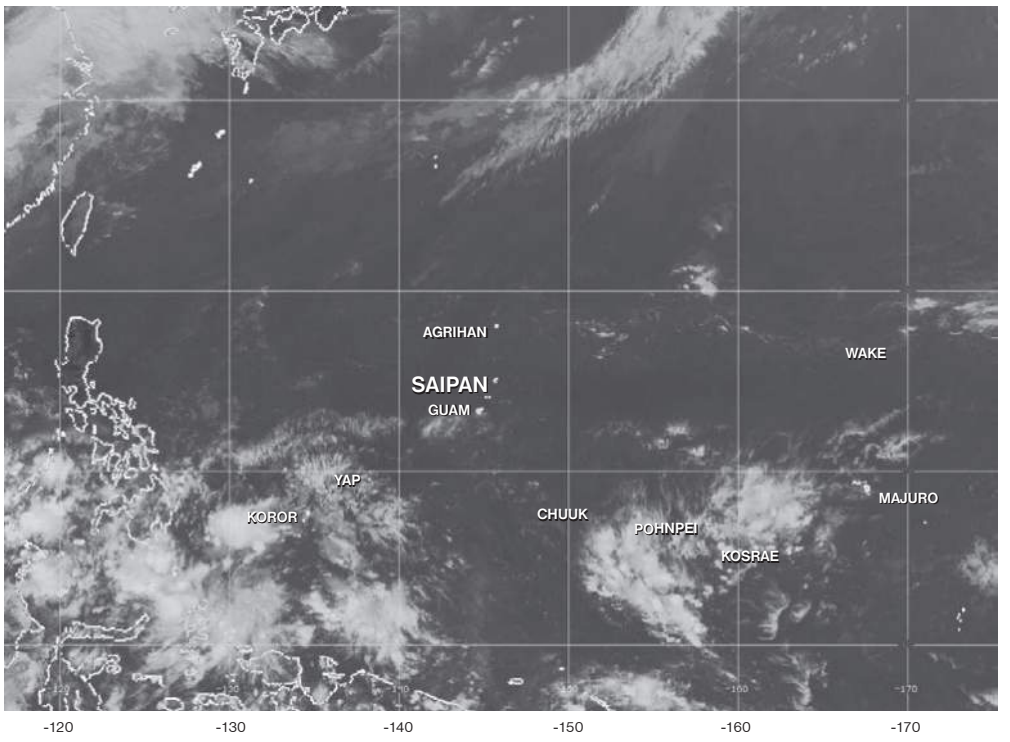
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A mainly sunny sky.	Mostly sunny skies.	Partly cloudy in the evening followed by scattered thunderstorms after midnight.	Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms mainly before midnight.	Sun and a few passing clouds.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models continue to show a dry pattern over the Marianas for the next week. Moderate trade winds will continue for the next few days and seas will remain fairly steady at 4 to 6 feet through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	89	81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85	78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86	72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85	81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85	78 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86	80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85	81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Sunny	67	58 °F
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	82	70 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82	75 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83	72 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	61	45 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	69	55 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	91	79 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	60	44 °F
Miami	Sunny	85	71 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	58	48 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	74	63 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	61	41 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	71	53 °F
Rome	Sunny	75	54 °F
Salem	Sunny	73	45 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	65	51 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	73	55 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	75	61 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	67	48 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:43 AM	LOW TIDE	0.70
6:25 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
1:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.14
7:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:41 AM	5:18 PM
Wednesday	-	5:20 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	-	6:01 AM	6:55 PM
Friday	-	6:43 AM	7:44 PM
Saturday	-	7:26 AM	8:33 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Wed. deadline for Chamber scholarship

One of the the Saipan Chamberof Commerce's goals are to promote and enable postsecondary education and to publicly acknowledge and reward the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of deserving students. We recognize that the cost of postsecondary education is substantial. It is for this reason that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce continues to award scholarships every June at its general membership meeting in the amount of $12,000.

The Educational Scholarship Fund offers a one-time monetary award in the following categories: Four high school scholarships, one college scholarship, and one Pellegrino vocational scholarship.

Last year the Chamber received 53 applications from both public and private schools students. This year, the Chamber hopes to increase that number. Completed applications and accompanying materials must be submitted by the required deadline. Application will not be accepted thereafter. Eligibility requirements must be met. After review of application packet, the applicant may be selected for a personal interview with the panel of judges selected by the committee.

Hard copies of the Chamber scholarship applications are available at the Chamber office and will also be delivered to schools. Chamber scholarship applications are also available for download on our website: www.saipanchamber.com. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application and submit them on or before the deadline of 5pm, Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at our office in the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315. Scholarships will be awarded at the monthly general membership meeting on June 7, 2017. For more information call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest nonprofit private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interest, general health and welfare, of our islands.

'Task and time management'

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding the second in its "Customer Service Excellence" workshops for 2017.

Called "Task and Time Management," the workshop is being done in partnership with Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions.

With increased business development on island, businesses are experiencing competition in finding sufficient workers. It pays to invest in yourself by attending training to enhance your skills and efficiency. Effective time management is the key to getting the most out of each day and to surviving the increased business pressure brought about by our island's economic changes and growth.

From managing emails to juggling time spent on multiple projects, this training will help attendees attain skills to balance home and work, to help rethink and reprioritize on a moment's notice. This seminar is for all levels of employment, from front line staff to supervisors, managers, and owners.

During this training, participants will learn to establish goals and communicate effectively to meet deadlines, to learn effective techniques to increase productivity, and to design a personal time management system that works best for themselves and their team.

This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 15, 2017, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

NEW BAR MEMBER FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Assistant attorney general Joseph Hallahan, second from right, poses with CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, extreme right, after taking his oath as the newest CNMI Bar member at the Supreme Court on Tuesday. Hallahan passed the CNMI Bar examination last February. Also in the photo, from left, are Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel Ashley Kost, and attorney Charity Hodson.

PUSH

From Page 10

with the military's toxic waste at the Tanapag cemetery, the proposed bombing of Pagan, or the actual bombing of Farallon de Medinilla.

Even supposed efforts to protect the environment have done more harm than good. Take, for example, the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument, a coercive federal declaration that was even supported by the Obama administration.

As John Gourley of Marianas Conservation wrote in a letter to President Obama, "Under the pretense of conservation, U.S. mainland politics took away our access and extraction rights over vast areas of the ocean that have traditionally been used…by Mariana Island communities for thousands of years."

In that way, the Marianas Trench monument has restricted, not protected, this precious natural resource.

However, even with the failures of the federal government, our local government has done no better. Although there are a ton of environmental laws on the books, our local officials have, time and time again, failed to enforce those laws.

In the 1990s, local agencies did nothing to prevent the garment industry from building Mount Puerto Rico with garment waste, which led to periodic fires that closed down Garapan under clouds of black smoke.

At the turn of the century, our coastal resource management program was so poorly run that we lost millions of dollars in grants.

More recently, officials have stood by, doing virtually nothing, as Imperial Pacific violates all sorts of environmental laws by simply paying fees and not changing its practices.

And, at a simple but no less important level, ask yourself: When was the last time you or anyone you know was fined for littering our beaches?

The net result of these failures has been catastrophic. Our coral reefs are deteriorating. Our beaches are routinely red flagged. And our fishing stocks are being depleted.

These are just some of the many ways that *both* our national and local leaders have failed our islands.

But we cannot and should not sit back and do nothing.

> The only way we can save our environment is for the federal government and the CNMI to work together.

This brings me to my third and final point. The only way we can save our environment is for the federal government and the CNMI to work together.

Earlier, I distinguished between dual federalism and coercive federalism. However, there is another option: cooperative federalism.

In this model, rather than dividing power or competing for jurisdiction, federal and local officials collaborate to achieve shared goals that benefit everyone.

We witnessed this in the 2015 response to Typhoon Soudelor, which involved coordinated efforts between numerous federal *and* local agencies.

As a result of those efforts, in a few short months, food and shelter were made available to all in need, basic utilities were restored, and the islands began the steady path toward recovery.

That level of collaboration was a testament to what we can do together, especially in response to a crisis. And the crisis of our environment demands that same level of collaboration.

So, in that spirit of collaboration, how can we use cooperative federalism to protect our natural resources?

First, instead of using the Antiquities Act, we should shift to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, both of which give the CNMI more voice and agency over our natural resources.

Second, in the spirit of the Covenant, the Endangered Species Act should be amended and adapted to respect the unique needs of our local culture and economy while still protecting endangered species.

Third and last, given how important our natural resources are, Section 902 of the Covenant should be the primary tool for identifying sanctuaries and conservation areas, with special attention paid to the fishing and harvesting needs of the CNMI.

These examples of cooperative federalism will help us all work together to protect our natural resources and save our environment.

Because only by working together can we heed the calls of scientists, our ancestors, and Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner to take care of our home.

But I have no illusions about how hard it is to work together, especially when so much is at stake. Perhaps, then, we should look back to our heritage and learn a lesson from the House of Taga.

After a lifetime of heroic triumphs, Taga grew jealous of his youngest son, who was growing stronger than Taga. In a rage, Taga killed his son. His wife then died, overcome with grief, his daughter murdered him, and all his remaining children died in misery over the whole tragedy. This all happened because they were fighting over one thing: power.

Imagine, instead, if they had fought to keep their family together, just as Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner is fighting for her family and fighting for her home.

Imagine if they fought to keep the House of Taga standing.

So, instead of arguing about power and authority over our natural resources, the federal government and our Commonwealth should share responsibility for those natural resources.

And instead of fighting *against* each other, we should work *with* each other to protect our natural resources, to save our islands from sinking into the sea, and to keep our house standing.

Business

Trump welcomes some unions over others at the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump says labor unions have an open door to his White House, but so far, he's holding the door a little more ajar for some organizations than others.

Trump has put out the welcome mat for the nation's construction trades, with whom he's had relationships during decades of building office towers and hotels. Also invited in have been auto, steel and coal workers who backed him during the 2016 election.

But there's been no White House invitation for other unions representing the sprawling but shrinking pool of 14.6 million workers who collectively bargain with employers in the labor movement.

In this Feb. 2, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump, flanked by then-Commerce Secretary-designate Wilbur Ross, left, and Harley Davidson President and CEO Matt Levatich, talks to media before a lunch meeting with Harley Davidson executives and union representatives in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. AP

"You can tell Congress that America's building trades and its president are very much united," Trump told North America's Building Trade Unions, even as he pledged in the same speech, "America's labor leaders will always find an open door with Donald Trump."

But he has not courted all union leaders or advocated for all labor priorities. For example, he's against a $15-an-hour minimum wage and has let linger a rule expanding overtime pay. Much like President Ronald Reagan did, Trump is not so much pursuing a labor agenda but one that appeals to those who share his "Buy American, Hire American" priorities and happen to be union members.

"Trump is clearly working to be the blue collar president," said F. Vincent Vernuccio, director of labor policy at the center-right nonprofit Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Michigan. "He's trying to bring back the Reagan labor coalition and get the Blue Dog Democrats back."

The White House says the president is "open to meeting with various individuals and groups on how to improve the lives of all Americans."

But even among unions with most-favored status, there's some skepticism about whether he's for workers or just the executives who hire them.

Trump got some boos and hisses during his address to the building trades union. And Chuck Jones, president of United Steelworkers Local 1999, with whom Trump feuded, raises an eyebrow at the talk coming from the White House.

"I don't think from our perspective, he's a friend of the working class person," Jones said, noting that Trump's tax plan would benefit the president himself, and that Trump campaigned on "getting rid" of a long-standing free trade deal with Canada and Mexico. "Trump always had some kind of relationship with the building trades. But for regular manufacturing? This is not a good time for working people."

The 2016 election suggests labor is fertile political ground for Trump. Exit polls showed he pulled within 8 percentage points of Democrat Hillary Clinton among union members—the best showing for any GOP nominee since Reagan in 1984.

During his first 100 days, Trump has tried to appeal to those frustrated by seeing U.S. jobs go overseas. For example, he scrapped U.S. plans to participate in an Asia-Pacific trade pact and belittled the North American Free Trade Agreement, although he backed away from a campaign pledge to withdraw from it.

He's taken to Twitter to criticize American companies with plans to move some operations to other countries and threatened to tax any products they tried to sell in the U.S. He's pushed a reluctant Republican-controlled Congress to pay for a $1 trillion rebuilding of the nation's roads and bridges, and he's green-lighted the Keystone XL pipeline.

But while some unions have received the red carpet treatment, others have been largely ignored at the White House.

Take teachers unions, traditional allies of Democrats. While Education Secretary Betsy DeVos joined Trump for White House sessions with teachers and other educators, neither of the two big teachers unions—the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers—was invited. DeVos did accept an invitation from AFT President Randi Weingarten to tour a school in Ohio.

"Trump in New York was never involved in education. He was a blank slate on education," Weingarten said.

Workers' bad behavior requires more than a discussion

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

Q: I have two pairs of employees who can't seem to get along. The first pair talks so much trash about their co-workers that people from other departments have told me about their comments. The second pair just tries to keep their distance and never makes nasty remarks.

I am concerned about the two troublemakers and plan to call them in and repeat what I have been told. They will, no doubt, want to know who complained, but because I received this information in confidence, I don't think I should reveal my sources.

I'm sure they will make excuses for their behavior and I expect the drama to continue. However, I just want to let them know that I'm in the loop on the office grapevine. Does this sound like a good plan?

A: Well, you do have a couple of things right. Talking with the agitators is definitely a priority. Their public trash talk is not only escalating the conflict but also hurting the reputation of your group.

Keeping sources confidential is also a wise move. When employees are told about complaints, they often indignantly demand to know who made them. But since you are not obligated to divulge that information, this diversion can easily be set aside.

For example: "I understand your wanting to know who spoke to me. That's just human nature. However, I owe that person the same confidentiality that I would give to you. So we need to focus on the issue, not the person who mentioned it."

However, your plan does have one glaringly obvious deficiency — that is, you are making absolutely no effort to actually solve the problem. Instead of passively repeating hearsay and accepting that "the drama will continue," you need to act like a manager and require some changes in behavior.

Start by informing the two troublemakers that their snarky remarks must stop immediately. Then give all four squabblers the nonnegotiable goal of resolving their disagreements and ending this juvenile bickering. While they don't have to like each other, they do need to act like mature adults. After all, this is a business, not a playground.

Q: To get my new business off to a good start, I want to hire the best possible staff. When screening applicants, I plan to use multiple interviewers, conduct thorough background checks and have candidates take personality assessments. Because I believe past actions usually predict what people will do in the future, I'm focusing my questions on applicants' previous experience. I will also be looking for positive attitudes. Does this sound like the right approach?

A: Yes, for the most part. Background checks can prevent serious problems, and multiple interviewers will provide a variety of perspectives. Past behavior is indeed the best predictor of future behavior, and anyone with obviously negative traits should be screened out.

My only caution has to do with personality assessments. The internet has unfortunately made it all too easy to find invalid tests and inexperienced providers, and bad assessments can do a great deal of damage. So, if you decide to do testing, be sure to use a qualified professional.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Average US gas price drops 5 cents, as crude cost falls

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of a gallon of regular-grade gasoline dropped 5 cents nationally over the past two weeks, to $2.41. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the drop reflected lower costs for crude oil, as well as abundant gas supplies. She says the national average is 14 cents a gallon above the price a year ago. Gas in San Francisco was the highest in the contiguous United States at an average of $3.02 a gallon. The lowest was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at $2.02 a gallon. The U.S. average diesel price is $2.57, down 2 cents from two weeks ago.

Detroit Packard car plant still in ruins 3 years after sale

DETROIT (AP)—Peruvian developer Fernando Palazuelo saw the hulking and crumbling Packard car plant on Detroit's east side and vowed to turn the industrial ruin that's a symbol of the city's urban decay into bright apartments, busy shops and art galleries. It's been more than three years since Palazuelo bought the complex for $405,000 at a tax foreclosure auction, and signs of his promised development have yet to rise from the rubble. His company just recently scheduled a May 16 groundbreaking for redevelopment at what was once the Packard's administration building, after telling city officials work would start last August. Spiffing the Packard for redevelopment won't be easy. It's been about 20 years since any companies operated out of the 3.5 million-square-foot (0.33 million sq. meter) site. Before Palazuelo bought the property, city officials said razing the structures and cleaning out polluted soil from decades of industrial and heavy manufacturing operations could cost as much as $20 million.

Nation

Obama urges Congress to show 'courage' on health care

BOSTON (AP)—Former President Barack Obama, in his first public comments about the ongoing debate over his signature health care plan, implored members of Congress on Sunday to demonstrate political courage even if it goes against their party's positions.

Obama briefly returned to the spotlight as he accepted the annual John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award at JFK's presidential library in Boston. The award is named for a 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Kennedy that profiled eight U.S. senators who risked their careers by taking principled though unpopular positions.

In his approximately 30-minute speech after accepting the award, Obama steered clear of partisan attacks and never mentioned his successor, President Donald Trump, who has often criticized the previous administration and has worked to undo many of Obama's initiatives, including the Affordable Care Act.

The former president recalled members of Congress who voted to pass the ACA during his presidency, only to lose their seat in later elections.

AP
Former President Barack Obama waves at the conclusion of his remarks after being presented with the 2017 Profile in Courage award during ceremonies at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Sunday, May 7, 2017, in Boston.

"They had a chance to insure millions," he said. "But this vote could also cost them their seats, perhaps end their political careers."

Obama made no direct reference to Thursday's House vote to dismantle much of the health care law, but declared that while it did not take courage to help the rich and powerful, it does require courage to help the sick and vulnerable.

"It is my fervent hope and the hope of millions ... such courage is still possible, that today's members of Congress regardless of party are willing to look at the facts and speak the truth, even when it contradicts party positions," said Obama, whose appeal seemed to focus on wavering Republicans.

Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, one of the few Republicans to attend the dinner, told reporters the Senate would write its own version of the legislation and he did not expect the House bill to survive intact.

The former president focused much of his address on the legacy of President Kennedy, as the library prepared to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth later this month. Obama noted the Kennedys had long advocated for health care reform, and in particular, the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, who died of brain cancer before passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Among the guests who made their way down the red carpet into the library for the event were representatives of the Kennedy family, members of Congress, former Obama staffers and celebrities including former late-night talk show host David Letterman. Former Vice President Joe Biden and former Secretary of State John Kerry also were in attendance.

U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III, a Massachusetts Democrat, said Obama earned the award by meeting many challenges that faced him during his presidency.

"It's about understanding the challenges we face as a country and as a planet and mustering the political will to do what is right even if what is right at that moment isn't necessarily popular," said Kennedy, a harsh critic of the GOP health overhaul plan.

Caroline Kennedy, JFK's daughter who served as Ambassador to Japan, and Jack Schlossberg, Kennedy's grandson, presented the award.

Schlossberg, 24, and planning to attend Harvard Law School, said Obama inspired him the way an earlier generation was inspired by his grandfather.

"Without Barack Obama, I might still be sitting on my couch, eating Doritos and watching sports," he said.

While the former president has steered away from any involvement in U.S. affairs during his early months out of office, he forayed into the French political debate last week by posting a message of endorsement for centrist presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron, who defeated his far right rival Marine Le Pen in Sunday's election.

Grieving dad runs for school board in gang-scarred suburb

BRENTWOOD, N.Y. (AP)—Robert Mickens was just a regular dad who went to his daughter's high school basketball games in their New York town, worried about whether she studied enough and sometimes got on her case for spending too much time gabbing with her friends.

Everything changed in September. That's when his 15-year-old Nisa and her best friend, Kayla Cuevas, 16, were found beaten and hacked to death in the street, a killing authorities blamed on the violent gang MS-13, which has infested their school and gripped their Long Island community with fear.

Mickens is now turning his grief into action, running for the local school board to help change what he sees as a culture of gang violence that has claimed the lives of 11 people, mostly teenagers, in Brentwood and another neighboring town since the school year began.

"I just thought I needed to do something to make it better for other kids, to do more," said Mickens, a 39-year-old nurse's aide with a trade-school degree and no experience in education. He is among eight candidates on the May 16 ballot for three spots in the Brentwood Union Free School District, one of the state's largest districts, with more than 18,000 students.

The board does the usual tasks: manages a $380 million budget, evaluates the superintendent and ratifies union contracts. But increasingly it has been grappling with how to handle the mounting MS-13 threat, which has made parents afraid to send their children to Brentwood High School and students fearful that any slight to the gang, particularly a refusal to join, could get them killed.

"You hear from students and parents, they have concerns over about what is going down at the school," Mickens said. "Me being a father who lost his daughter, I think I could probably help other kids and make a difference."

The 11 killings blamed on MS-13 in Brentwood and neighboring Central Islip have led President Donald Trump to weigh in, calling them the result of lax immigration policies that let too much criminal "scum" slip through. About a dozen suspected gang members were rounded up and arrested in March, but four more high schoolers were found dead in a park last month.

Texas stokes immigration debate with 'sanctuary cities' ban

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas charged to the forefront of the national debate over immigration as Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed a so-called "sanctuary cities" ban that lets police ask during routine stops whether someone is in the U.S. legally and threatens sheriffs with jail if they don't cooperate with federal immigration agents.

The new Texas law was blasted by opponents as the nation's toughest on immigrants since Arizona's crackdown in 2010. Opponents vowed to challenge it in court.

Abbott signed the measure on Facebook Live Sunday evening without advance notice, which critics said was to avoid protesters. Abbott spokesman John Wittman said they chose to sign the bill on social media because that's "where most people are getting their news nowadays."

The law allows police to inquire about the immigration status of anyone they detain, a situation that can range from arrest for a crime to being stopped for a traffic violation.

It also requires police chiefs and sheriffs - under the threat of jail and removal of office - to comply with federal requests to hold criminal suspects for possible deportation. Republicans have a strong majority in the Legislature and shoved aside Democratic objections, even as President Donald Trump's efforts to withhold federal funding for sanctuary cities have hit roadblocks in federal courts.

"Let's face it, the reason why so many people come to America is because we are a nation of laws and Texas is doing its part to keep it that way," Abbott said.

Democratic state Rep. Cesar Blanco said it looked like Abbott "wanted to get ahead" of any protests by staging the signing on Facebook Live.

Texas is nation's second most populous state, and opponents say Hispanics will now be subjected to racial profiling and predicted the law will have a chilling effect on immigrant families.

The bill won't take effect until Sept. 1. Terri Burke, executive director of the ACLU of Texas, said "we will fight this assault in the courts" and the ballot box. Abbott said key provisions of the bill had already been tested at the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down several components of Arizona's law but allowed the provision permitting police to ask about immigration status.

The term "sanctuary cities" has no legal definition, but Republicans want local police to help federal immigration agents crack down on criminal suspects in the U.S. illegally. Some Democrats said the timing of the signing particularly stung after three recent federal court rulings that found intentional discrimination in Republican-passed voting laws.

"They did not connect the history of our culture or how closely that it is tied to Mexico," Democratic state. Rep. Eddie Rodriguez said. "It's just extremely personal. There is a lot of disconnect. They don't really see this as affecting people."

The Texas and Arizona bills are not identical. Whereas the Arizona law required police to try to determine the immigration status of people during routine stops, the Texas bill doesn't instruct officers to ask. But it does allow Texas police to inquire whether a person is in the country legally, even if they're not under arrest.

Texas doesn't currently have any cities which have formally declared themselves sanctuaries for immigrants.

But Sally Hernandez, the sheriff of Travis County, which includes liberal Austin, has refused to honor federal requests to detain immigrants if the suspects weren't arrested for immigration offenses or serious crimes such as murder. Hernandez softened her policy after Abbott cut funding to the county, saying decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis. She said before Abbott sign it that she would conform to the ban if it became law.

Asia

Jared Kushner's sister woos China's 'golden visa' investors

AP
A Chinese man browses a leaflet as visitors seek information at the exhibitor booths in a Invest in America Summit, a day after an event promoting EB-5 investment in a Kushner Companies development held at a hotel in Beijing, Sunday, May 7, 2017.

BEIJING (AP)—The sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner has been in China courting individual investors with a much-criticized federal visa program that provides a path toward obtaining U.S. green cards.

Kushner's sister Nicole Meyer promoted One Journal Square, a Kushner Companies' development in Jersey City, at an event Sunday at the Four Seasons Hotel in Shanghai, according to participants.

The pitch seeks to raise funds from Chinese investors through the U.S. government's EB-5 visa program, which allows permanent U.S. residency for those who finance projects that create a certain amount of jobs.

The event was organized by Beijing-based immigration services company QWOS and Kushner Companies, according to an advertisement on the Chinese company's website, which says the project is seeking $150 million from 300 EB-5 investors.

Kushner, a senior adviser to Trump, stepped down as chief executive of the Kushner Companies in January and has sold stakes in several properties to help allay concerns about conflict of interest. His family's promotional efforts in China come amid widespread criticism of the EB-5 visa program, which has grown popular among wealthy foreigners seeking to move to the U.S. but faces allegations of fraud and misuse.

Critics say many of the investments purportedly aimed at assisting poor areas of the U.S. have instead wound up going to projects in more affluent neighborhoods, while many programs have been badly hit by fraud scandals. U.S. lawmakers have been weighing proposed changes to the program, which would likely affect companies such as Kushner Cos. should it want to raise funds from such investors. Earlier this month, Congress extended the EB-5 program in its current form through Sept. 30.

Staffers at QWOS' offices in Beijing and Shanghai either refused to comment or did not answer repeated calls. The Kushner Companies declined comment.

Blake Roberts, an attorney at the law firm of WilmerHale, which is Kushner's personal counsel, said Kushner has no involvement in the operation of Kushner Companies.

Roberts said in a statement that Kushner has divested his interests in the One Journal Square project by selling them to a family trust of which he, his wife and his children are not beneficiaries, a mechanism suggested by the Office of Government Ethics.

"As previously stated, he will recuse from particular matters concerning the EB-5 visa program," the statement said.

Now led by Kushner's relatives, the Kushner Companies had earlier been negotiating with China's Anbang Insurance Group to provide what could be hundreds of millions of dollars in equity for redevelopment of a Manhattan office building. Those negotiations, which had drawn criticism from lawmakers and government ethics experts, ended in March. Critics saw it as a potential attempt by China to curry favor with the White House.

The Chinese company's advertisements for the Journal Square development described the project as "Kushner 1," with punchy subtitles declaring that it has "government support" and is "founded by celebrity developers," without elaborating.

Bi Ting, a 34-year-old woman who attended the Shanghai event, said having the name of the U.S. president's son-in-law associated with it was "a bonus for the project."

Bi said Kushner's sister Meyer spoke for more than 10 minutes, describing the history of the Kushner family and the highlights of the project. Meyer spoke to the audience in English, aided by a translator, and didn't take any questions, Bi said.

The proposed EB-5 investment would account for around 15 percent of the total investment of $976 million required for the project. According to QWOS's advertisements, the development comprises two 66-story towers of 1,476 luxury apartments, as well as commercial and retail space.

Another person who attended the forum in Shanghai, who would only give her surname, Wang, said people in the conference said that Trump's son-in-law was a shareholder of the Kushner Companies, but "he has already quit."

"I don't know if the connection with the president is good or not, it's hard to say," added Wang, who is from Shanghai.

The other participant, Bi, who is pregnant, said she was considering immigrating to America to give her child an academic environment that is "more relaxing; where one can pursue real interests and where the child can do something that they really want to do."

Pakistan, Afghanistan dispute toll after clashes

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan said Sunday its forces killed at least 50 Afghan troops and destroyed five checkpoints in clashes along the disputed border two days earlier, while Afghanistan dismissed the account, saying only two border police and a civilian were killed.

The two armies traded fire Friday around the Chaman border crossing, which has been closed by Pakistan, stranding people on both sides. The clashes, which ended after a few hours when local commanders contacted each other via an emergency hotline, marked a dangerous escalation between the two U.S. allies.

The two uneasy neighbors share a porous 2,200-kilometer (1,375-mile) border and have long traded allegations of supporting militant groups.

Pakistani Maj. Gen. Nadeem Ahmad told reporters at the crossing that two Pakistani soldiers were killed in Friday's fighting and another nine were wounded. He said around 100 Afghan forces were wounded.

Najib Danish, deputy spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said that account was "completely baseless." He said two Afghan border police were killed in Spin Boldak, on the Afghan side of the border, and another 11 were wounded.

He said a woman was killed and 30 other civilians were wounded in the attack, which forced several local residents to flee their homes.

Pakistani officials said the fighting began after Afghan security forces fired on Pakistani census workers and the troops escorting them, killing nine civilians and wounding 42, including women and children. They say the Afghan government had been notified and given the coordinates of the border villages, where the census workers were going door to door.

Afghan officials said Pakistani troops fired the first shots.

Afghanistan refuses to recognize the international border, which follows the so-called Durand Line, established more than a century ago when the British Empire controlled much of South Asia. The line runs through the traditional homeland of the Pashtun ethnic group, which dominates Afghanistan and is a minority in Pakistan.

Afghanistan refuses to allow Pakistan to set up additional border posts, even though the frontier area is used by the Taliban and other Islamic militant groups. Each country says the other turns a blind eye to militant sanctuaries.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH, US begin smaller-scale joint military exercises

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine and U.S. troops have begun annual joint exercises that are smaller in scale than in years past, focusing on disaster response and counterterrorism while excluding territorial defense operations. The changes were instructed by President Rodrigo Duterte who has said he wants to chart a foreign policy less oriented toward Washington while expanding security ties with China and Russia. He has taken a softer stance than his predecessor on the territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. Opening rites for the "Balikatan" or "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" exercises were led Monday by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and U.S. Ambassador Sung Kim at the Philippine military's headquarters in metropolitan Manila. Officials say 5,400 personnel will be involved in the drills, or about half of 11,000 troops who took part last year.

Nepal wants to limit age for Everest after 85-year-old dies

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Family and supporters on Sunday honored an 85-year-old Nepali man who died trying to regain his title as the oldest person to climb Mount Everest, while officials stressed the need to limit the age for such a daunting physical challenge. The death of Min Bahadur Sherchan has revived concerns about allowing elderly people to attempt to scale peaks where the conditions are harsh and oxygen level low. Nepali law requires Everest climbers to be at least 16 but there's no upper age limit. "It is very necessary to immediately bring that age limit law. If there had been a limit, the loss of life could have been prevented," said Ang Tshering, head of the Nepal Mountaineering Association. The association is planning to push the government to limit the age of climbers to at least 76, he said.

Gas leak in coal mine in central China kills 18 miners

BEIJING (AP)—A gas leak in a coal mine in central China has killed 18 people, local authorities said Monday. The leak happened on Sunday morning when miners were working in the shaft of the mine in Youxian county in Hunan province, according to a statement from the propaganda department of the Communist Party committee of Zhuzhou city, which administers the area. Rescuers managed to bring to safety 37 miners who are receiving hospital treatment, it said. The official Xinhua News Agency said that police had detained unspecified people pending an investigation. China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal. Its mining industry has long been one of the world's deadliest, with hundreds of deaths annually, even as China has tried to improve standards by shutting older, smaller mines.

World

Macron wins France's presidency, Le Pen hopes dashed

AP
French President-elect Emmanuel Macron gestures during a victory celebration outside the Louvre museum in Paris, France, Sunday, May 7, 2017.

PARIS (AP)—Ripping up France's political map, French voters elected independent centrist Emmanuel Macron as the country's youngest president Sunday, delivering a resounding victory to the unabashedly pro-European former investment banker and dashing the populist dream of far-right rival Marine Le Pen.

Macron, who had never run for office before, celebrated with thousands of jubilant, flag-waving supporters outside the Louvre Museum in Paris on Sunday night.

The European anthem "Ode to Joy" played as he strode out to address the swelling crowd.

"France has won!" he said. "Everyone said it was impossible. But they do not know France!"

Marine Le Pen, his far-right opponent in the runoff, quickly called the 39-year-old Macron to concede after voters rejected her "French-first" nationalism by a large margin. Le Pen's performance punctured her hopes that the populist wave which swept Donald Trump into the White House and led Britain to vote to leave the EU would also carry her to France's presidential Elysee Palace.

Macron told the Louvre crowd that the Le Pen vote was one of "anger, disarray."

"I will do everything in the five years to come so there is no more reason to vote for the extremes," he said.

Earlier, in a solemn televised victory speech, Macron vowed to heal the social divisions exposed by France's acrimonious election campaign.

"I know the divisions in our nation that led some to extreme votes. I respect them," he declared, unsmiling. "I know the anger, the anxiety, the doubts that a large number of you also expressed. It is my responsibility to hear them."

The result wasn't close: With about 90 percent of votes counted, Macron had 64 percent support. Le Pen had 36 percent—about double what Jean-Marie Le Pen, her father and co-founder of their National Front party, achieved at the same stage in the 2002 presidential election.

Macron's victory strengthens France's place as a central pillar of the European Union, and marked the third time in six months—following elections in Austria and the Netherlands - that European voters shot down far-right populists who wanted to restore borders across Europe. The election of a French president who champions European unity could also strengthen the EU's hand in its complex divorce proceedings with Britain.

Parisians lined the streets outside Macron's campaign headquarters to see his motorcade whisk him away to the Louvre party. His wife, Brigitte, joined him on stage after his address.

Macron said he understood that some voters backed him reluctantly, simply to keep out Le Pen and her National Front party, which has a long history of anti-Semitism and racism.

"I know that this is not a blank check," he said. "I know about our disagreements. I will respect them."

After the most closely watched and unpredictable French presidential campaign in recent memory, many voters rejected the runoff choices altogether—casting blank or spoiled ballots in record numbers Sunday. Police sprayed tear gas and detained dozens of protesters holding running demonstrations through eastern Paris after the election results came out.

Congratulatory messages poured in from abroad. Trump tweeted congratulations on what he called Macron's "big win" and said he looked forward to working with the new French leader. Macron has said he wants continued intelligence-sharing with the United States and cooperation at the United Nations and hopes to persuade Trump not to pull the U.S. out of a global accord fighting climate change.

Germany's foreign minister, Sigmar Gabriel, laced his welcome for Macron with a warning to the French, saying: "If he fails, in five years Mrs. Le Pen will be president and the European project will go to the dogs."

Macron becomes not only France's youngest-ever president but also one of its most unlikely. Until now, modern France had been governed either by the Socialists or the conservatives, but both of their candidates were eliminated before the runoff.

"France has sent an incredible message to itself, to Europe and the world," said Macron ally Francois Bayrou, tipped among his possible choices for prime minister.

Unknown to voters before his turbulent 2014-16 tenure as France's pro-business economy minister, Macron took a giant gamble by quitting Socialist President Francois Hollande's government to run as an independent. His startup political movement—optimistically named "En Marche! (In Motion)"—caught fire in just one year, harnessing voters' hunger for new faces and new ideas.

"I'm so happy, it feels so good! I lived the election of Donald Trump in New York, and now finally, after Brexit, after Trump, populism has been beaten in France," Macron supporter Pierre-Yves Colinet said at the Louvre party. "Today, I'm proud to be French."

Despite her loss, Le Pen's advancement to the presidential runoff for the first time marked a breakthrough for the 48-year-old and underscored a growing acceptance of her anti-immigration, France-first nationalism.

Le Pen immediately turned her focus to France's upcoming legislative election in June, where Macron will need a working majority to govern effectively. Le Pen said her "historic and massive" score turned her party into "the leading opposition force against the new president's plans."

"I call on all patriots to join us," Le Pen said. "France will need you more than ever in the months ahead."

Her supporters at a National Front election night gathering in Paris put on a brave face.

"Now we enter combat," said Didier Roxel, a National Front legislative candidate.

Le Pen said she won 11 million votes, which would be her party's highest-ever electoral score.

Macron and Le Pen offered polar-opposite visions: Le Pen's closed borders against Macron's open ones; his commitment to free trade ran against her proposals to protect the French from global economic competition and immigration. Her desire to free France from the EU and the shared euro currency contrasted with his argument that both are essential for the future of Europe's third-largest economy.

Nigeria leader meets Chibok girls, leaves for medical trip

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari expressed joy Sunday night at meeting with the 82 Chibok schoolgirls newly freed from Boko Haram extremists—then jolted the country by announcing he was leaving for London immediately for medical checkups as fears for his health continue.

"We've always made it clear that we will do everything in our power to ensure the freedom & safe return of our daughters" and all captives of Boko Haram, Buhari said on his Twitter account.

Minutes later, the 74-year-old president startled Africa's most populous nation with the news of his departure. Buhari, who has missed three straight weekly Cabinet meetings, spent a month and a half in London on medical leave earlier this year and said he'd never been as sick in his life. The exact nature of his illness remained unclear.

"There is no cause for worry" about this latest medical leave, a statement from his office said, adding that the length of Buhari's stay in London will be determined by his doctors.

Photos released by the government showed the rail-thin president standing and addressing the Chibok schoolgirls at his official residence Sunday evening, a day after their release.

"The president was delighted to receive them and he promised that all that is needed to be done to reintegrate them into the society will be done," adviser Femi Adesina said. "He promised that the presidency will personally supervise their rehabilitation."

The young women have been handed over to government officials who will supervise their re-entry into society, Adesina said. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which helped negotiate the girls' release along with the Swiss government, said they would be reunited with their families soon.

Five Boko Haram commanders were released in exchange for the girls' freedom, a Nigerian government official said Sunday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to reporters on the matter. Neither Nigeria's government nor Boko Haram, which has links to the Islamic State group, gave details about the exchange.

Parents of the schoolgirls were waiting for a government list of names of those who had been freed.

Some parents of the kidnapped girls gathered in the capital, Abuja, to celebrate the release, while others expressed anxiety over the fate of the 113 girls who remain missing after the mass abduction from a Chibok boarding school in 2014.

The Rev. Enoch Mark, whose two daughters have been among the missing, was still awaiting word if they were among those freed. He emphasized that he considered all 82 of the girls to be his daughters "because most of them worship in my church."

Some parents did not live long enough to see their daughters released, underscoring the tragedy of the three-year saga. And the recovery process is expected to be a long one for the girls, many of whom endured sexual assault during their captivity.

"They will face a long and difficult process to rebuild their lives after the indescribable horror and trauma they have suffered at the hands of Boko Haram," said Pernille Ironside, acting representative of UNICEF Nigeria.

Boko Haram seized a total of 276 girls in the 2014 abduction. Girls who escaped early on said some of their classmates had died from illness. Others did not want to come home because they'd been radicalized by their captors, they said.

Focus

Clash over middle-school sex assaults: Did they happen?

By JULIET LINDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ESTILL, S.C. (AP)—The numbers are horrific: At least four students, ages 11 to 14, victimized by as many as 30 kids in one of the largest single cases of sexual assault reported on U.S. school grounds.

And yet four years later, it's as if nothing happened.

The sheriff's office investigated and filed an incident report, but eventually stopped asking questions after multiple fruitless attempts to discuss the case with a prosecutor. Estill Middle School said it couldn't determine what, if anything, happened in the gym bathroom. The former school principal couldn't even recall the incident when asked about it.

But to the grandmother of two girls who claimed they were forced by classmates to perform oral sex, there is no doubt that something terrible happened. She filed a lawsuit against the school district for failing to keep kids safe from harm.

"They were at a schoolhouse, where they were supposed to be protecting my kids," she said.

In a yearlong investigation , The Associated Press uncovered about 17,000 official reports of sex assaults by students in U.S. elementary and secondary schools over a four-year period. That tally is an undercount because such attacks are widely under-reported, and states vary in their efforts to track, classify and catalog sexual violence by students.

AP's analysis was based on state education records and supplemented by federal crime data, where the 2013 incident reported at Estill Middle School stood out.

Boys and girls ranging from 11 to 16 were sneaking into the gym bathroom to engage in sexual activity, according to the sheriff's office investigative report, which classified the conduct as forcible rape, forcible fondling and disorderly conduct.

"The teachers, staff, and administration regularly failed to supervise students in the gym and regularly allowed students of the opposite sex to enter the bathroom with each other," the grandmother's suit alleges, claiming the school demonstrated "gross negligence" by allowing, or at least turning a blind eye to, student sex on school grounds.

'A HE-SAID, SHE-SAID'

In a March 2013 incident report, Deputy Quintina Orr of the Hampton County Sheriff's Office said she was initially called in to investigate a bullying incident involving several sixth-grade girls, who told her they'd seen the others having sex in the bathroom over many months. Orr, the school's resource officer, also reported the vice principal said that on Feb. 22 she saw "several males running out of the girls restroom inside the gym" during fifth period and asked Orr to investigate further.

Orr spoke with everyone involved, she told AP in a recent interview. Many of the kids said they'd engaged in sexual activity in the bathroom, or that they'd seen others doing it. No one told her explicitly that they were forced, Orr said, but one girl gave her pause: She seemed to have a developmental disability.

Because of the ages involved—and the kids' legal inability to consent—Orr reported that what happened inside the bathroom was, at worst, forcible rape.

She listed five victims: two 11-year-olds, two 12-year-olds and a 14-year-old. Twenty-nine boys and girls were listed as potential perpetrators, including some who she said stood watch outside the bathroom to warn if adults approached. (The numbers in her report differ slightly from the federal data, which included four victims and 30 culprits.)

Four years later, Orr thinks she was wrong to use the word "rape," though she noted she never got any guidance from the prosecutor's office on the correct charge. In hindsight, "sex crimes, sexual misconduct" would have been a more appropriate description, she said.

Sitting behind his desk at the Hampton County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Perry Singleton agrees. He said Orr was a good law officer, but that she used the wrong terminology and that "sexual assault" would have been better.

In the end, it didn't matter.

Singleton said he and Orr pursued the case with a prosecutor, several months after the incident and presented her with the students' statements. But they never heard anything. Orr pressed on, her report showed. She tried calling the prosecutor on her cellphone and at her office several times over the next month. She noted in her report that the rape crisis center, where some of the girls had been referred, wanted to know why no charges had yet been filed.

When she approached Singleton again, he told her "not to worry about it."

"It was a he-said, she-said," Singleton told AP. "There was nobody who said, 'I did this.' It was just, 'I saw him do this, I saw her doing that.' There was nothing concrete, and we would have had a problem if that case went to court."

AP
In this Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017 photo, a swing hangs in front of the offices of Hampton County School District 2 in Estill, S.C. U.S. schools are failing to protect the children in their care—and not just in places like Estill, impoverished and plagued by public schools that have been underfunded for decades.

Duffy Stone, Hampton County's chief prosecutor, said his office didn't pursue criminal charges because the students' statements were wildly inconsistent and their ages made it almost impossible to determine who would be considered a victim and who a perpetrator. Under state law, if both children were under 14, neither could legally consent to sex.

Asked if any of the children said they were forced into sex, Stone said no, "none that we could prove."

The principal at the time, Synetria Hawkins, is now an assistant at the school. Orr wrote in her report that when Hawkins was asked whether she had time to review video footage of the gym on the day of the Feb. 22 incident to match it to student statements, she said no.

When contacted by AP, Hawkins said she did not remember the sheriff's office investigation. She did not return multiple messages left on her school voicemail, cellphone and at her home seeking further comment.

It is not clear to what extent the school itself investigated, as required under federal law and U.S. Education Department guidelines. Orr's report noted that "a few parent interviews were conducted" along with plans for further meetings with students and parents.

In a statement to AP, the school district said it interviewed the students and their parents or guardians but that no one was disciplined "due to inconsistent stories among the students allegedly involved and a lack of evidence indicating that the alleged behavior occurred."

Ralph Smiley, an attorney representing Hampton County District 2, said he could not provide any details on the school's investigation and declined to comment on whether any policies were changed as a result of the incident.

In its response to the grandmother's lawsuit, the school maintained it did nothing wrong, and suggested that if the girls suffered, they were "comparatively negligent in instituting, engaging in, and continuing the conduct which resulted in (their) injuries."

STRUGGLES IN THE 'CORRIDER OF SHAME'

"The school told us it was the girls' fault," the grandmother said, lips curled, "that they wanted it."

She bristles at assertions that the girls were willing participants. The girls weren't perfect, she said. They made mistakes just like anybody. But at 12 years old, they should have never been put in this position.

She spoke on condition that her name not be used, because the girls and her other grandchildren still go to district schools. In a town this size, word gets around.

She lives in a tiny trailer in a town 20 minutes outside of Estill where the walls shake each time a train roars by. At home, she could watch the girls. But at school, she trusted someone else to look after them.

"Why weren't they supervised?" she said. "What will happen to other children?"

Estill lies in the heart of South Carolina's Low Country. Its population, now 2,000, dwindled by nearly 16 percent between 2000 and 2010. Weather-worn homes are crumbling and storefronts are boarded up. Industry here died long ago.

Most parents have no choice but to send their children to the public schools. Ninety-eight percent of students at Estill Middle are African-American; more than 90 percent receive free or reduced lunch.

Decades ago, the school district joined others in suing the state, arguing that funding reliant on property taxes made it impossible for rural schools in this economically depleted region to provide even a "minimally adequate" education for their mostly poor students. In 2014, the state Supreme Court ruled in their favor.

Bud Ferillo, who made a documentary about these schools in 2005 and now runs a program about race and inequality at the University of South Carolina, said that the crumbling buildings and dismal learning conditions that characterized the "Corridor of Shame" schools were only part of the problem.

"Everything from violence to inappropriate sexual behavior can happen when nobody's looking," he said. "I heard about it a lot from both administrators and teachers, and even from some parents who knew that they were sending their children each day into dangerous territory. They believed they had little or no choice if they wanted their kids to get any kind of education."

This was not the first time Estill faced allegations that students were being victimized - and that little was done to stop it. The sheriff's deputy that Orr replaced as school resource officer, Larry Heyward, was convicted last year of sexually assaulting a student at the school and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Heyward's victim, now 19, wonders why his teachers never asked any questions when week after week, month after month, Heyward would pull him out of class and into his office, where much of the abuse occurred. Or why nobody said anything when Heyward choked or Tased the boy in the hallway, in full view of students, teachers and administrative staff.

"I just don't understand why me and two other boys were sent to his office every week and nobody ever noticed that. Nobody bothered to notice," he said. The AP is not identifying him because it does not name victims of sexual abuse.

Orr believes the Heyward case affected students in the school, leading them to act out sexually. In its wake, she said, the school district failed to give students counseling or training on "how to report what's wrong and what's right."

Lara Hart, an attorney who represented Hampton County District 2 in the lawsuit against the state, noted that children sometimes are harmed on campus, even at the most affluent schools.

"Children are hurt because children are hurt everywhere, for a variety of reasons. We try to protect them as much as we can," she said. "I feel a lot for Hampton 2. They do the very best they can but they don't have much. These children have a lot of needs, and they can't get a leg up. It's a hard, hard job and they need more support. At the end of the day, it's the children who are suffering."

But the grandmother insists that school officials could have done more, worked harder to figure out why the girls were left alone in the gym.

Her girls, she said, are still suffering. One went wild: She started acting out at school, so badly that she was sent for a stint at juvenile detention. The other went silent: She stopped seeing friends, and asked to be home-schooled. Neither wants to talk about it ever again, not even to the attorneys trying to assist in a civil suit the grandmother filed against the district.

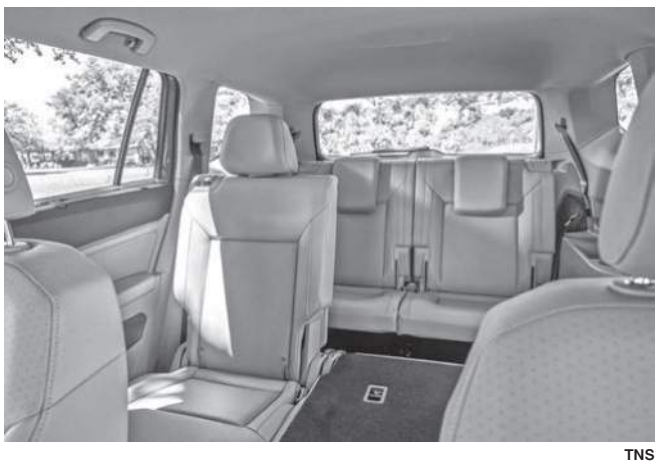
The grandmother said she isn't after money. She just wants to make sure her granddaughters—now in high school—and her other grandchildren will be safe at school.

"How could you let that happen to a 12-year-old child?" said the girls' aunt, standing at the grandmother's bedside with a hand on her shoulder.

"How could you let them go from our home, where we're protecting them, to the school and let that happen? How could you have let that happen when we put our child in your care? How could you have let that happen?"

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: VW Atlas
lacking muscle but not appeal



TNS

The 2018 Volkswagen Atlas has a roomy cabin, handsomely conservative looks and balanced performance.

The 2018 Volkswagen Atlas is strong only to a point. TNS

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

You have to pity poor Atlas, the mythological Greek god who led the Titans into a losing battle against the Olympians. Zeus sentenced him to hold the weight of the heavens on his shoulders.

Fortunately for Atlas, he was buff.

Unfortunately for drivers, Volkswagen's new crossover utility vehicle of the same name is strong only to a point.

The three-row, seven-passenger 2018 Atlas' payload capacity is only 1,213 pounds. Load it up with four women and three men of average weight, and you'll be over that threshold before even putting a single golf club in the generous 20.6-cubic-foot cargo area.

Why does this matter? It's simple. Exceeding a payload rating degrades handling and can lead to a tire blowout and loss of control.

Perhaps the Atlas name refers to Volkswagen's hopes of strengthening its U.S. market share. In this regard, there's little doubt the vehicle will deliver.

The crossover's crisp, timeless styling won't look dated by the time your lease is up, and some of the aesthetic touches — the airflow-aiding hood creases, for example — are also functional.

Inside, you'll find an incredibly spacious, family-friendly cabin that's classically VW Spartan and agreeably finished in textured plastic trim. The driving position is perfect for long stints behind the wheel, and though tire noise is noticeable on rough surfaces, you'll find the cabin pleasantly quiet.

For now, all models come with a 3.6-liter VR6 engine producing 276 horsepower and 266 pound-feet of torque. Front-wheel drive or 4Motion all-wheel drive sends up to 50 percent of power to the rear axle. Eventually, a front-wheel-drive model powered by Volkswagen's ubiquitous 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine will be made available. An eight-speed automatic transmission is standard.

Performance is good but not overwhelming with the VR6, with passing maneuvers revealing a very linear torque curve. The automatic transmission shifts smoothly, although some might wish for quicker shifts in manual mode.

By ordering 4Motion, you'll get the expected adjustable driving modes of Comfort, Normal, Sport, and Individual and also settings for Onroad, Snow, Offroad, and Custom Offroad. But really, few drivers will be going off-road in this ride.

Steering is nicely weighted and suitably quick, returning good feel in Sport mode. In Normal mode, the steering feels too light and numb. The suspension is well-dampened, delivering enough compliance to provide ride comfort without being too soft. You can push the Atlas to perform and it will, but it's first and foremost a family vehicle.

As with most new vehicles, it comes loaded with a long list of driver assistance features including adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, autonomous emergency braking with pedestrian monitoring, blind spot monitor with rear traffic alert, lane departure warning, park distance control, parking steering assistant, high beam control, and an overhead view camera.

For most buyers, however, the standard infotainment system matters most. Base S models have a 6.5-inch touchscreen, while SE, SEL and SEL Premium models are equipped with a glass-covered 8.0-inch touchscreen. Connectivity is easy, and audio systems start with six speakers and top out with an impressive 480-watt, 12-speaker Fender audio system. If you've used to older VW infotainment systems, you'll find the newest one a nice departure. The large screen and simple interface makes it easy to use.

Volkswagen has gotten almost everything right with the 2018 Atlas. Its disappointing payload cap will likely go overlooked as its roomy cabin, handsomely conservative looks and balanced performance find acceptance in cul-de-sacs across the country, just like the station wagons of yore.

Consider it a millennial Country Squire.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: $30,500-$33,700
- Engine: 3.6-liter VR6
- Horsepower: 276
- Torque: 266
- Fuel type: Regular
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 17/23 (AWD); 18/25 (FWD)
- Wheelbase: 117.3 inches
- Length: 198.3 inches
- Cargo capacity: 20.6-96.8 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 4,336-4,502 pounds
- NHTSA rating: Not rated

Death and Funeral Announcement

†Joseph Aimin Reyes Jr.

Better Known As "Jun Onio"

Born to Life: August 19, 1980
Called to Eternal Rest: May 05, 2017

Pre-Deceased By:
Paternal Grandparents: †Jose Manahane Delos Reyes and †Rosa Aguon Reyes
Maternal Grandparents: †Mishio Aimin

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his parents, life-long partner, children, and family.
Parents: Joseph Aguon Reyes and Elerie Aimin Reyes
Lifelong Partner: Tricia Rose Duenas Del Rosario
Children: Elerie Rose Del Rosario Reyes, Elicia Jo Del Rosario Reyes, and Joseph Herbert Del Rosario Reyes
Grandmother: Namiko Aimin

Brothers and Sisters:
- Ricky/Caroline (Oshiana, Ricky, Javin, Jaeden, and Ariyahna)
- Manasa/ Betsy (Austin Joshua and Francisco Joseph)
- Michael/Julie Ann (Roland and Jamie Ann)
- Mishio Joshua

Parents In-Law: †Herbert S. Del Rosario/Rose D. Del Rosario (PPD)

Brothers and Sisters In-Law:
- Dorsha/Eduard Jr. Guinto and Family
- †John Peter/Darrah Benavente and Family
- Tracy Lynn D. Del Rosario
- Wilber Ngotel Jr./Desiree Valdez and Family
- Herman Herbert D. Del Rosario Jr.
- Trianna Jamae D. Del Rosario

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of his soul is being celebrated each evening at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017, His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS,
Thank you – Si ' Yu'us Ma'ase

Tricia Rose Duenas Del Rosario and Children
Joseph A. and Elerie A. Reyes
†Herbert S. and Rose D. Del Rosario

Life & Style

Saipan plays host to its 1st Electric Island Festival

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

One of Guam's most attended festivals was a hit on Saipan when it took place last April 29 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's beach area, attracting a crowd of nearly 1,500.

Guam has been playing host to the Electric Island Festival the past four years. Festival director Andrew Hong said the festival in the U.S. territory caused many people from Saipan to venture to Guam just to take part in the event.

According to Hong, because of the growing number of Saipan locals flying to Guam just to experience the EIF, he decided to expand the festival to Saipan. He said one of the festival's goals is to provide an environment where people an feel free and let loose.

Another reason the festival is to showcase world-class electric music and that proved true during the Saipan leg of the event.

Hong hopes the festival becomes a tourist attraction. "…This can be translated into people coming traveling to a beautiful place like Saipan to enjoy music and paradise," he said.

In his four years of directing the EIF, Hong has witnessed how electric music has caused people to come together. He aims to gain local support first for the EIF. Once that is established, Hong then intends to turn the festival into another tourist attraction for both Guam and Saipan.

According to Hong, the festival was overwhelmingly successful, from the attendance number, to the energy, to the overall vibe. "…The overall energy and vibe of the crowd was amazing," he said.

Hong was also overjoyed with the spirit of festival participants. "It was awesome to see everyone dress up and dance non-stop until the very end," said Hong.

One of the participants, Sherylou Zandueta, was thrilled that the festival came to Saipan. "I really feel the good vibes from the island of Guam out here," she said.

Tribe Marianas co-owner and general manager T.J. Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* that for the first event of its kind on Saipan, the EIF went "extremely great."

Not everyone had fun, though. A participant shared that he did not feel the vibe of the festival. "EIF wasn't all that. It wasn't my vibe and it wasn't my type of music," said the participant.

He said he would join again if there were a mix of musical genres and not just pure electric music.

He conceded, though, that the festival attracted quite a crowd. "It wasn't my thing but it was really successful," he said.

Hong urged everyone to keep giving the festival a chance. "Give it a chance and continue to come out to future events. Our future EIF events will have different themes and activities."

Hong is confident that the EIF will only get better and he plans to make the EIF an annual gig.

He also acknowledged all the sponsors and partners. "While we bring the festival, we cannot do it without local support and it has been overwhelming."

For those who enjoyed the festival, Hong said that there will be a special EIF event at the end of summer of 2017 on Saipan and encourages everyone to stay tuned.

MD: One of Guam's most attended festivals was a hit on Saipan when it took place last April 29 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's beach.

'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2' blasts off with $145M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" rocketed to an estimated $145 million debut in North America, kicking off Hollywood's summer movie season with something the movie business has been craving: a sequel more successful than the original.

Director James Gunn's second "Guardians" film opened 54 percent higher than the 2014 runaway hit, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That release, which introduced the intergalactic band of misfits played by Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Vin Diesel and Bradley Cooper, debuted with $94 million in its first weekend.

Once a little-known, oddball property in Marvel's vault, the "Guardians of the Galaxy" have grown into one of the comic-book factory's biggest brands.

The Walt Disney Co. validated the rise of "Guardians," too, by moving it from August (when the original opened) to the first weekend in May. Marvel has used the same weekend to effectively launch the summer season for the last decade.

The opening for "Guardians Vol. 2," made for about $200 million, is the second largest of the year, following Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" ($174.8 million). But it also turns back the tide of underperforming sequels, a developing scourge to Hollywood. Last summer saw a litany of sequels that failed to live up to earlier installments.

"We spent a lot of time looking at sequels and the idea of sequel-itis," said David Hollis, distribution chief for Disney. "Really, poor quality films have been the thing that has, more than anything, been rejected by consumers over time. The ambition here was to make something that was unbelievably fresh and exciting. As long as we can continue to deliver high-quality storytelling, high-quality world-creation, we'll be in great shape."

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" scored on that front, landing an A CinemaScore from audiences and an 82 percent "fresh" rating from critics on Rotten Tomatoes. In two weeks of international release, the film has also made $269 million overseas. A third "Guardians" is already planned, as are crossovers with Marvel's Avengers.

1. **"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,"** $145 million ($124 million international).
2. **"The Fate of the Furious,"** $8.5 million ($30.1 million international).
3. **"The Boss Baby,"** $6.2 million ($11.9 million international).
4. **"How to Be a Latin Lover,"** $5.3 million ($5.6 million international).
5. **"Beauty and the Beast,"** $4.9 million ($11.9 million international).
6. **"The Circle,"** $4 million.
7. **"Baahubali 2: The Conclusion,"** $3.2 million ($43.9 million international).
8. **"Gifted,"** $2.1 million.
9 **"Going in Style,"** $1.9 million ($3.1 million international).
10. **"Smurfs: The Lost Village,"** $1.8 million ($5.6 million international).

But whether "Guardians" can turn the tide for summer sequels will be a much-followed story line as the season progresses. The bottom line of just about every studio depends on it.

On the horizon are big-budget sequels like "Alien: Covenant," ''Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales," ''Cars 3," ''Transformers: The Last Knight," ''Despicable Me 3" and "War for the Planet of the Apes."

"I think this is going to be one of the biggest summers ever. Obviously last summer was a bummer. We had numerous sequels—well over a dozen—that didn't live up to the promise of their immediate predecessor," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "Summer 2017 gets us back on track. There's a lot out there."

Fearing the might of "Guardians," no other major studio releases debuted over the weekend. The gap between first and second at the box office was immense. "The Fate of the Furious" came in at no. 2 with $8.5 million in its fourth weekend. The Universal release, the eighth installment in the franchise, has grossed $1.6 billion worldwide.

The only film selling tickets globally at even roughly the same pace as "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" was the South Indian sequel "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion." The Tollywood film (in the Telugu language) has in two weeks grossed $147.3 million globally, according to comScore. That sets a new mark for an Indian film at the worldwide box office.

A handful of films in limited domestic release opened including A24's "The Lovers," with Debra Winger and Tracy Letts ($70,410 on four screens); the Weinstein Co.'s "3 Generations," with Elle Fanning ($20,118 on four screens); IFC's "Chuck," with Live Schreiber ($40,416 on four screens); and Laura Poitras' Julian Assange documentary "Risk" ($75,179 on 34 screens).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Netflix renews '13 Reasons Why' for second season

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix has renewed the water-cooler hit "13 Reasons Why" for a second season.

The streaming service announced Sunday that it has picked up the series revolving around the suicide of a high school girl. Season two will debut on Netflix next year.

While Netflix doesn't release ratings information, "13 Reasons Why" has proven a conversation-starting drama.

Some have criticized the show for glorifying suicide, which led to Netflix adding an additional warning ahead of the series.

The Selena Gomez-produced "13 Reasons Why" is based on Jay Asher's young adult best-seller.

The second season will also be 13 episodes long.

MTV Awards salute 'Beauty and the Beast,' 'Stranger Things'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Film hit "Beauty and the Beast" and Netflix newcomer "Stranger Things" were the night's big winners with two trophies apiece as MTV partied with its Movie & TV Awards show.

For this, the 26th edition of what was formerly known as the MTV Movie Awards, TV was added to the mix. "Stranger Things" was decreed the Show of the Year, and its cast member, Millie Bobby Brown, was named Best Actor in a Show.

"Beauty and the Beast" was the Movie of the Year, with its star, Emma Watson, the Best Actor in a Movie.

But the awards had another trick up its sleeve, introducing a policy of breaking down gender barriers, as men and women competed jointly in the acting categories.

The policy was put into practice at the top of the show by presenter Asia Kate Dillion, who proudly noted she has been able to break down gender barriers as "the first openly non-binary actor to play an openly non-binary actor on a major TV show," Showtime's drama series "Billions." (A non-binary person is someone who doesn't identify with either gender.) Then she presented the award to Watson.

AP

The cast of "Stranger Things" accepts the award for show of the year at the MTV Movie and TV Awards at the Shrine Auditorium on Sunday, May 7, 2017, in Los Angeles.

"Acting is about the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes, and that doesn't need to be separated into two different categories," Watson said in receiving her trophy,

Despite glowering skies and dime-size hailstones, MTV was heralding the start of the summer viewing season with its annual shindig. The red carpet outside Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium became a swamp as luminaries made their water-logged arrival for the shindig. But inside, it was dry (except for flowing cocktails among audience members) as Adam Devine hosted the proceedings.

Tongue-in-cheek, Devine described himself as a progressive personality fully equal to the night's high-minded theme.

As the caption "Adam Gets It" flashed on the screen, Devine declared, "I love Hugh Jackman. But I call him Hugh Jack-PERSON."

And turning to "Beauty and the Beast," he said, "I call it 'Multidimensional woman with her own dynamic traits, and the beast.' "

The show maintained its traditional irreverence with awards recognizing the best duo (Jackman and Dafne Keen of the film "Logan"), best villain (Jeffrey Dean Morgan, "The Walking Dead"), best tearjerker (hit TV drama "This Is Us"), and best kiss (Ashton Sanders and Jharrel Jerone of "Moonlight").

That last award was presented by co-stars of the film smash "Get Out": a very blond Allison Williams in shimmering miniskirt, alongside a nervous-looking Lil Rey Howery.

"Are you scared of me?" Williams asked him.

"I'm AFRAID—that's the word I'm gonna use," Howery said.

"Ever since the movie came out," said Williams, "for the last couple of months—"

"- Black dudes don't mess with you," said Howery, whose character in the film has good reason to be scared of hers.

A new award, Best Fight Against the System, went to the film "Hidden Figures," which tells the story of a team of African-American women mathematicians who served a vital role at NASA during the space program's early years.

The mission of the filmmakers, said one of its stars, Taraji P. Henson, was to dispel a certain deep-seated social myth "so another young girl wouldn't grow up thinking that her mind wasn't capable of grasping math and science."

The cast of the "Fast and Furious" franchise received the Generation Award, accepted by Vin Diesel, who thanked a generation of fans "willing to accept this multicultural franchise, where it didn't matter what color your skin was or what country you are from—when you're family, you're family."

Trevor Noah of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" was named Best Host.

"There is one person I aspire to be every single day," he said, "and that is my mom: a powerful, strong black woman who never listened when people told her she couldn't be more."

Then, among his thanks, he voiced gratitude to President Donald Trump "for the comedy."

Even one of the night's biggest awards couldn't escape a bit of mischief-making. Presenting Movie of the Year, Amy Schumer and Goldie Hawn comically bobbled the title (a la the Oscars), first announcing "La La Light," then "Moonland." Then they got it right: "Beauty and the Beast."

Woman wonders if opposites can move beyond attraction

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a two-year relationship with a man who is loving and intelligent. We have talked about marriage since the beginning. I have traditional values, while he doesn't believe the institution of marriage is necessary.

This would be a second marriage for both of us. Our children are grown, so having kids doesn't factor into this decision. He says he's willing to marry me because he knows how important marriage is to me. I was raised in the church, and living together not only makes me uncomfortable, but is looked down upon by my family.

For a while he wanted to wait for a few of his financial issues to be worked out. They have been, but he doesn't seem ready to move forward. Another issue is that while we are compatible in most ways, we are polar opposites when it comes to politics and religion. It bothers me, but he says we don't have to agree on everything—that if we did, life would be boring. I feel that to have a happy relationship, a couple's essential values and morals should be similar.

He never wants to discuss political issues, and it makes things difficult and awkward. I know he doesn't feel the same as I do, but he doesn't want to start an argument or discussion. We never really fight, but sometimes I'd like to be able to talk about what is going on in the world.

I'm wondering if a relationship with so many differences can survive. He does make me happy, and we have a very passionate, loving relationship.

OPPOSITES ATTRACT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR OPPOSITES ATTRACT: Opposites often attract, that's true. And, depending upon the people involved, it can lead to successful marriages.

However, couples in a solid relationship need to be able to communicate honestly with each other, and your gentleman friend appears not to be capable of doing it fully, which is not a good sign. If you plan on taking this relationship to the next level, I recommend the two of you have premarital counseling. Your church may offer it. Or, if he would prefer, consult a licensed marriage and family counselor.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is 3. She has reached the point where she notices and comments upon others' appearance. Generally, her comments are of the "that lady has a big bottom!" variety, spoken loudly and within earshot. We are working on the concepts of manners and tact, in addition to learning that people come in all shapes, sizes, colors, etc.

In the meantime, however, have you any suggestions for how to address the subjects of her comments? I've offered some version of "I'm sorry, we're still working on our manners," but it seems to imply that I'm teaching her to make her hurtful comments in a quieter voice.

EMBARRASSED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR EMBARRASSED: You are overthinking this. Children sometimes say the darndest things. The way you're handling it is just fine. I hardly think anyone will be wounded for life because of anything a 3-year-old utters. (Everything looks "big" to a kid that age.)

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DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

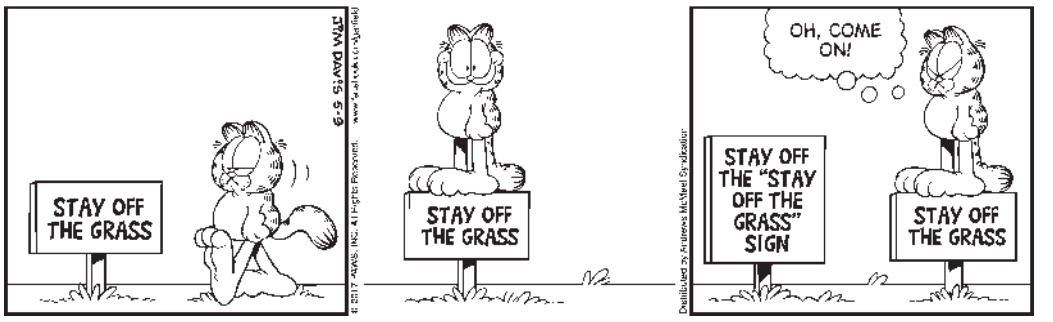
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SO EXACTLY HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE BACK CUT?
JUST TRIM THE PART THAT STICKS OUT AND TAPER IT A LITTLE.
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE IT REAL SHORT?
NO, JUST CUT A LITTLE BIT.
ARE YOU SURE? DON'T YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE REAL SHORT? IT LOOKS LIKE IT SHOULD BE REAL SHORT.
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
NO, I JUST THINK IT SHOULD BE REAL SHORT. ESPECIALLY, OH, RIGHT HERE.

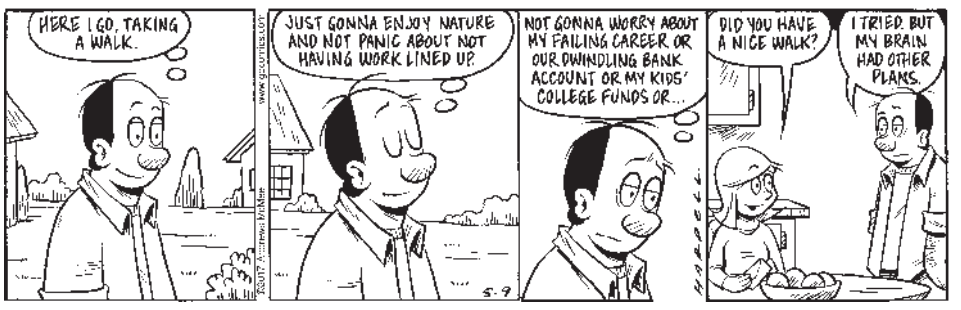
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE I GO, TAKING A WALK.
JUST GONNA ENJOY NATURE AND NOT PANIC ABOUT NOT HAVING WORK LINED UP.
NOT GONNA WORRY ABOUT MY FAILING CAREER OR OUR DWINDLING BANK ACCOUNT OR MY KIDS' COLLEGE FUNDS OR...
DID YOU HAVE A NICE WALK?
I TRIED BUT MY BRAIN HAD OTHER PLANS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

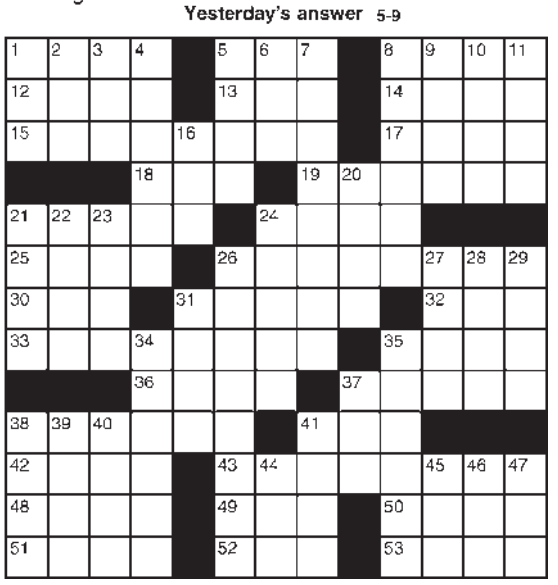
ACROSS
1 Chignons
5 Tampa Bay NFLer
8 500 sheets
12 Europe's neighbor
13 Ecol. watchdog
14 Own
15 Cherish
17 Saint Laurent of fashion
18 Quick swim
19 Westerns
21 Layered rock
24 Stuff like that
25 Empty truck's weight
26 Fine wool
30 Under the weather
31 "Tiny Alice" playwright
32 Pep
33 Float ingredient, often
35 Sword handle
36 Winged
37 Honeycomb compartments
38 London landmark
41 — -de-France
42 Scott Turow book
43 "Ditto"
48 Farm unit
49 Actress Longoria
50 Malaria symptom
51 Lean-to
52 New Jersey's Fort —
53 Policy expert

DOWN
1 "Humbug!"
2 GI entertainers
3 Zero
4 Bicycle seat
5 Gridlock sound
6 "— Lazy River"
7 Revelry participant
8 Recurring beat
9 Roof overhang
10 Say it's so
11 Disorder
16 Conk out
20 Rue the run
21 Swizzle
22 Saintly ring
23 Woody Guthrie's son
24 Cavalry sword
26 Made pure
27 Satan's forte
28 Streamlet
29 911 responders
31 Competent
34 Postponed
35 Donkey's comment
37 The Browns, on scoreboards
38 Fluffy scarves
39 Foot fraction
40 Richard of "Chicago"
41 Big-screen format
44 Bird (Pref.)
45 Swelled head
46 Scoot
47 "A mouse!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

Z	I	P		A	H	O	L	D		L	E	T
A	R	C		S	O	R	F	R		O	I	F
C	A	S	F	S	T	U	D	Y		W	I	N
			C	U	B		G	D	D	E	S	T
T	A	C	C	M	A		N	E	A	R		
A	M	A		E	I	H		N	I	C	H	E
N	O	S	E		H	O	P		S	A	U	L
G	R	E	G	G		O	R	T		S	N	L
		M	O	N	E		C	W	_	E	T	S
T	H	E	S	I	S		V	I	A			
R	U	N		S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E
A	L	T		L	E	N	D	L		S	H	Y
M	A	S		Y	F	S	F	S		H	O	F

Yesterday's answer 5-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Yzerman, 52; John Corbett, 56; Billy Joel, 68; Candice Bergen, 71.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind. The more accepting you are, the easier it will be to get what you want in return. Let your creative imagination take you on a journey that encourages you to try new things. Serious negotiations will transpire if you are clear about what you want. Stick to important issues, keep your life simple and you will excel. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 26, 32, 35, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Show sensitivity when dealing with relationship issues. Someone you love will take any negativity as a personal assault. Look for the right moment and find a diplomatic way to discuss any grievances you have. Choose harmony over discord. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You can bring about change if you are adamant about what you want. Express your desires explicitly, but not with force or anger, and you will grab the support and attention you need to follow through with your plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take part in the events going on in your community or that include young family members. What you discover by being a participant will encourage you to get more involved in the activities available to you. Practice mindfulness. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Think about the desired result before you begin something new. It's important to use your intuition and proceed with a plan in mind that ensures that you get the results you want. Don't take unnecessary risks. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Confusion over domestic issues concerning health, cash flow or a pending settlement will surface. Don't let emotions take over. Consider your best recourse and start heading in that direction. Personal improvements will give you the boost needed to conquer a challenge. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put more effort into important partnerships. Use your ingenuity to find a way to work your way into someone's plans. Whether personal or professional gains are your motive, the way you go about it will make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put everything you've got into your professional goals. Send out resumes or set up interviews. Make a point to step up and offer your suggestions, and you will have a better chance to turn your vocational dream into something viable. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Try something different. Let your creative imagination help you find the perfect outlet for your skills and talents. Looking at how people from different cultures approach things will help you find the best way to move forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* The input you offer will be listened to and rewarded. Helping your peers will give you a chance to gain experience. Air your opinions and make suggestions that will encourage others to contribute. Use intelligence instead of force. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll face opposition if you overreact or try to push your ideas on someone. Go about your business and do what has to be done. Once you have perfected your plan and executed it with precision, you will get a better reception. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look over your financial papers or contracts and make adjustments. Keep the upper hand when dealing with money, legal settlements or health issues. Taking control will give you the opportunity to get what you want. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a different approach to the way you use your money or negotiate a contract. Put your heart and soul into your plans and don't let anyone take over or convince you to take on too much. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, vibrant and changeable. You are inventive and thoughtful.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave

			5		3	8		
				1				
		2			9			6
5				2		9		4
	2		9		8		1	
6		7		4				8
3			6			5		
				3				
		8	4		5			

Difficulty Level ★★ 5:09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	6	9	4	5	3	8	7	1
8	4	3	6	1	7	2	9	5
5	1	7	8	2	9	6	3	4
4	5	6	3	7	2	1	8	9
9	7	1	5	8	6	4	2	3
3	8	2	1	9	4	5	6	7
7	3	8	2	4	5	9	1	6
1	9	5	7	6	8	3	4	2
6	2	4	9	3	1	7	5	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CHUCK BARRIS (1929-2017) Solution: 11 letters

E	D	H	C	A	T	C	H	P	H	R	A	S	E	S
D	G	I	N	I	B	O	R	T	H	E	G	K	W	E
I	O	R	V	A	P	P	E	A	R	Y	R	O	T	L
T	Y	S	O	A	N	O	H	R	V	A	H	E	H	R
H	E	C	I	E	D	U	E	E	P	S	L	B	R	A
N	N	Ⓗ	C	G	G	T	L	S	N	E	E	A	E	H
E	O	Ⓞ	E	O	H	N	E	O	V	A	I	N	E	C
W	O	Ⓢ	S	G	Y	D	I	I	E	L	N	D	S	S
L	L	Ⓣ	U	L	A	S	S	T	M	L	A	S	A	H
Y	C	A	O	S	S	I	O	W	A	E	H	T	C	R
W	D	O	I	E	O	K	I	N	G	D	T	A	R	I
E	P	L	F	N	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	N	O	O
D	A	N	G	E	R	O	U	S	M	I	N	D	W	M
P	O	N	A	M	R	E	T	T	E	L	E	A	D	E
C	O	N	T	E	S	T	A	N	T	S	Y	R	A	M

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American, Appear, Bandstand, Catchphrases, Charles, Clooney, Confessions, Contestants, Cop Out, Dangerous Mind, Dating, Daughter, David, Della, Edith, Game, George, Hirsch, Host, Hugo, King, Lead, Letterman, Lyn Levy, Mary, Memoir, Nathaniel, Newlywed, Palisades Park, Pool, Robin, Shows, Television, Three's a Crowd, Voices

Yesterday's Answer: Thank You

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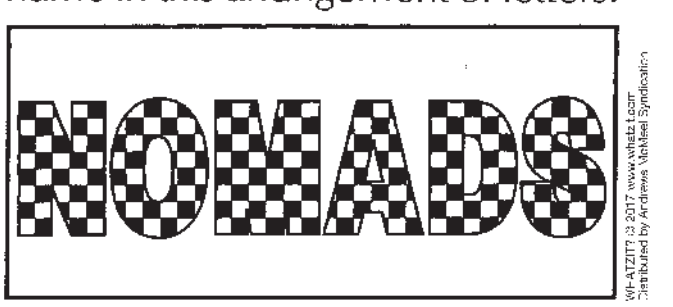
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

LeBron James scores 35 points, Cavaliers sweep Raptors

TORONTO (AP)—LeBron James scored 35 points, Kyrie Irving added 27 and the Cleveland Cavaliers completed a four-game sweep of Toronto, beating the Raptors 109-102 on Sunday to give James his seventh consecutive trip to the Eastern Conference Finals.

Kyle Korver scored 18 points to help the Cavaliers become the first team to win eight straight playoff games the year following a title, and the first team to win eight straight in consecutive postseasons.

Channing Frye had 10 points, and Cleveland finished 16 for 41 from 3-point range.

They finished off the Raptors about an hour before Game 4 between the Celtics and Wizards tipped off in Washington.

That series won't end until Wednesday night at the earliest, and could run until Monday night, meaning the Cavaliers will have plenty of time to rest before the Eastern Conference Finals.

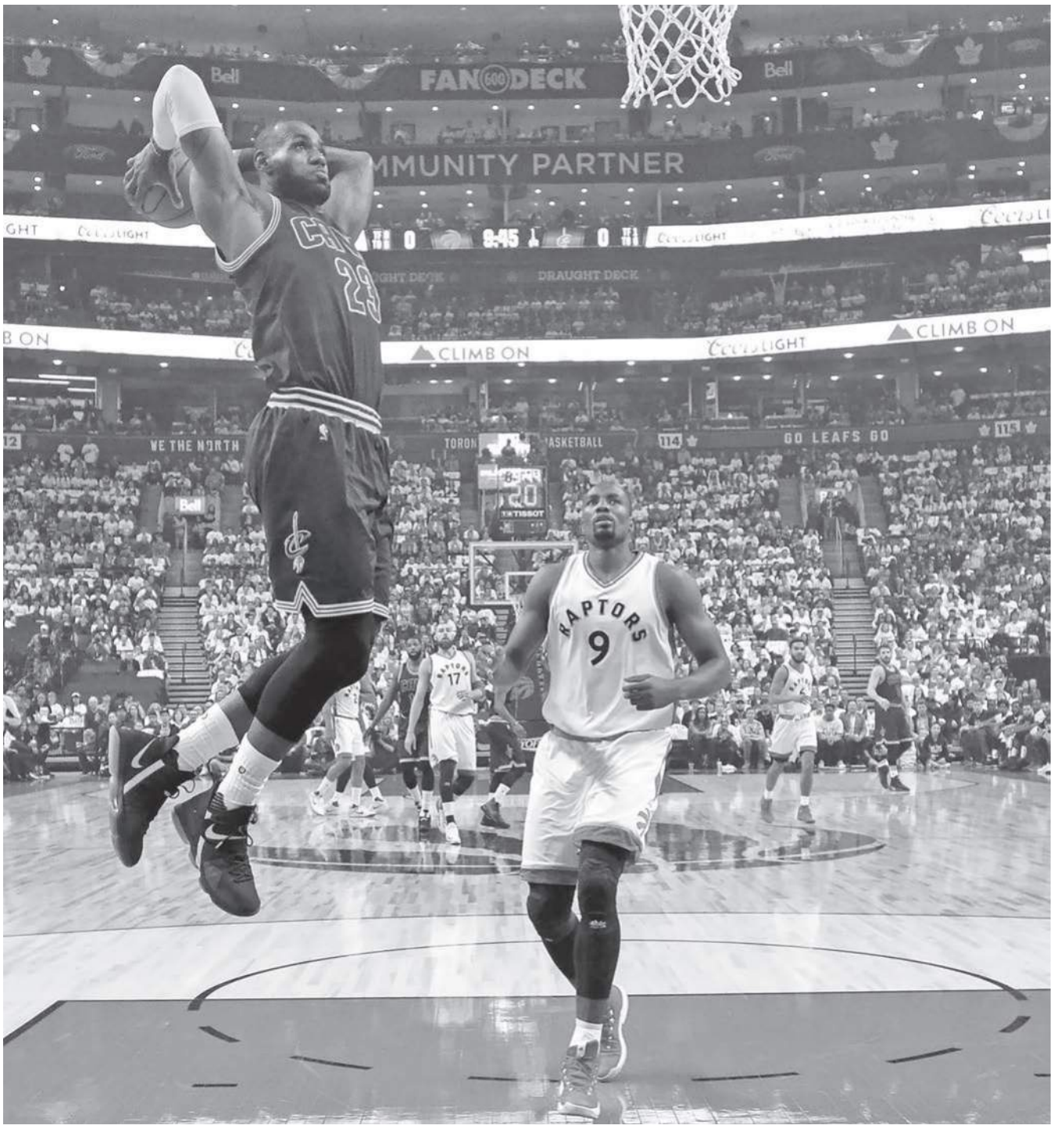
James added nine rebounds and six assists. Irving had nine assists.

Serge Ibaka scored 23 points, and DeMar DeRozan had 22 for Toronto. The Raptors took their first fourth-quarter lead of the series but couldn't avoid their fourth straight loss.

Making his second start in place of injured point guard Kyle Lowry, Cory Joseph had 20 points and 12 assists for Toronto, which lost in six games against Cleveland last year in the Conference Finals. P.J Tucker had 14 points and 12 assists in his first career playoff start.

Lowry sprained his left ankle in the third quarter of Game 2, and aggravated the injury while trying to warm up for Friday's Game 3. He was not active Sunday.

A 3 by Toronto's Fred Van Vleet cut it to 87-86 at 9:51 of the fourth, but James answered with a 3. Toronto kept it close, and took a 93-93 lead when Ibaka converted a three-point play with 6:38 left.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) slam-dunks past Toronto Raptors forward Serge Ibaka (9) during the first half of Game 4 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Toronto, Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Irving responded with a 3 and, following a missed shot by DeRozan, added a pair of free throws to put Cleveland up 97-92 at 5:54. After a basket by Cory Joseph, Irving added two more free throws and a layup, scoring all of Cleveland's points in an 11-2 run that gave the Cavs a 103-95 edge with 4:00 remaining.

Cleveland missed nine of its first 12 field-goal attempts, including four straight 3-point shots, and trailed 26-15 with 2:38 left in the first, but Toronto couldn't hold its lead. James converted a three-point play with 15 seconds left in the first to tie it at 28-all after one.

Following a replay review, Cleveland's Shumpert was called for a technical foul in the second after he kneed DeRozan in the ground area while rising for a jump shot, an incident that left DeRozan lying on the court in pain.

The Cavaliers started a 17-7 run while DeRozan was on the bench, opening a 51-41 lead with 3:46 left in the second. Korver scored 16 points in the second, making four 3-pointers, as Cleveland led 61-49 at halftime.

James scored 10 points in the third but the Raptors got nine from DeRozan and seven from Ibaka to close the gap. Toronto trailed 85-80 heading to the fourth.

Wizards 121, Celtics 102

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 29 points and the Washington Wizards used a 26-0 third-quarter run to beat the Boston Celtics to tie the series at two games apiece.

John Wall added 27 points and 12 assists for Washington. Wall had seven points, three assists and two steals during the third-quarter spree that featured eight Celtics turnovers. Otto Porter scored four of his 18 points in the dominant six-minute span that also included five points from Markieff Morris.

Trailing 53-48 before the run, Washington led 74-53 on Porter's layup with 5 minutes left in the third. The Wizards led by as many as 26 and outscored the Celtics (237-191) in the two games in D.C.

Isaiah Thomas had 19 points for Boston, but scored 17 in the first 15 minutes.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Boston.

Rockets 125, Spurs 104

In Houston, James Harden scored 28 points and Eric Gordon 22 as Houston rebounded from consecutive losses to beat San Antonio and tie their series 2-2.

The Rockets never trailed and used hot 3-point shooting to pull away in the third quarter.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in San Antonio.

Houston made 22 3-pointers in a blowout win in Game 1, but had struggled from long-range in its two losses. The Rockets' 3-point shooting, a hallmark of their success in the regular season, got back on track Sunday when they made 19 of 43, led by six from Gordon.

Jonathon Simmons had 17 points for the Spurs, and Kawhi Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge added 16 apiece.

Pink Grandmas remain loyal to Jazz basketball team

MURRAY, Utah (AP)—The Pink Grandmas bleed green, purple and gold. They're sweating out all of those colors as their beloved Utah Jazz stare at a 0-2 deficit against the Golden State Warriors in the Western Conference semifinals.

Yeiko Homma and Keiko Mori are known as the Pink Grandmas for their attire—pink Jazz jerseys. For the last 20 years, they've charmed Utah fans, players and coaches with their loyalty and love for their team and each other.

Homma, 92, and Mori, 88, were at Mori's home Sunday watching Game 7 of the Jazz's first-round series vs the Los Angeles Clippers, surrounded by a dozen family members, the Salt Lake Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/2qBwu9n). Wherever Mori watches, that's where Homma watches.

When Mori went to Intermountain Medical Center for seven days last week, Homma joined her by her bedside, donning pink Gordon Hayward jerseys to cheer for the Jazz the same way they have for two decades.

"We go together," Homma said. "That's how we do it."

The sisters believe they attended more than 600 games live. Mori said it's the atmosphere that keeps her coming back.

"It's just special to be there," she said.

Their fierce loyalty for the team has garnered the sisters fans of their own.

The Utah Jazz hosted a fan meet-and-greet with recently added team members not long after the 2014 NBA draft. Even though stars like Rudy Gobert and Dante Exum were in attendance, the Pink Grandmas had one of the longest lines for pictures.

Their aisle seats—in Section 7, Row 12 of the Jazz's Vivint Smart Home Arena—are visited by fellow Jazz loyalists. The pair has been featured in a commercial for Jazz season tickets, and they frequently are recognized on the street.

"Other than (former Jazz head coach) Jerry Sloan, they get the loudest applause when they're on the JumboTron," radio play-by-play man David Locke said.

Mori and Homma first started wearing pink to stand out. A family friend, Brad Nakamura, bought them pink jackets so he could see them from his seat across from the basket.

Attending the games together was a great way for the sisters to reconnect as adults after a tough childhood impacted by immigration and World War II. The sisters' family was separated. Half lived in Japan. The others left to the United States.

When Mori was pregnant with her second child in the early 1950s, the family sent for Homma.

When the two met, they had a language barrier.

"It took a little while," Mori said of how long it took for her and her sister to become close. "But it wasn't like we were strangers. It was just natural."

A few years ago, Homma moved four houses down the street from Mori. They talk, cook and watch Jazz games, almost always together.

But something disrupted the sisters' daily routine two weeks ago. Mori's normally talks with their other sister, Miyoshi Marumoto, every morning. As Homma watched TV, she suddenly heard her sister's chatter go to silence.

"It was really quiet," Homma said. "I turned around, and my sister is on the floor."

Homma went to get the neighbor for help.

Mori was taken the intensive care unit at IMC.

Doctors told her she had a seizure, caused by low levels of sodium. They recommended Mori monitor her fluid intake and diet.

The sisters are still unsure if Mori will be well enough to attend the Jazz's upcoming home games. Mori is staying optimistic on her chances of making it back to the stands and Jazz's chances of defeating the Golden State Warriors.

"I'll be back," Mori said.

Fellow Jazz Nation members have reached out to the sisters on the pair's Twitter account wishing Mori a speedy recovery.

Mets crushed after Harvey suspended

AP
Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton hits a three-run homer during the first inning of the baseball game against the New York Mets at Citi Field, Sunday, May 7, 2017, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Shortly after scheduled starter Matt Harvey was suspended by the New York Mets, Giancarlo Stanton hit two more monstrous home runs off fill-in Adam Wilk that led the Miami Marlins to a 7-0 victory over the Mets in Major League Baseball on Sunday.

Harvey was suspended for three days without pay for an undisclosed violation of team rules. General manager Sandy Alderson announced the punishment in a brief statement before the game. Multiple media reports indicated the penalty stemmed from the pitcher failing to show up at the ballpark Saturday.

Making his first start of the year while Edinson Volquez recovers from a blister problem, Jose Urena (1-0) and three relievers combined on a one-hitter as the Marlins snapped a three-game losing streak and handed the Mets their first shutout this season. Rene Rivera led off the sixth inning with a clean single against Urena.

Wilk (0-1) was brought up from Triple-A Las Vegas on short notice to make his first major league appearance since 2015. The journeyman lefthander was no match for Stanton, whose 20 home runs at Citi Field are the most at any visiting ballpark by a player since 2011.

Adeiny Hechavarria also homered for the Marlins.

Red Sox 17, Twins 6

In Minneapolis, Sandy Leon hit a pair of two-run homers and Chris Sale struck out 10 as Boston romped out of town with a big victory over Minnesota fueled by a season-high five homers and which finished with a 10-run ninth inning.

Sale (3-2) reached double-digit strikeouts for the sixth straight time, stretching his major league-leading total to 73.

The lanky left-hander briefly lost the lead in a four-run fifth while the Twins batted around, but Leon broke the tie in the sixth with a two-out homer off Minnesota ace Ervin Santana (5-1).

Dustin Pedroia, Andrew Benintendi and Mookie Betts also homered for the Red Sox, who set a season high in runs for the second straight game. Mitch Moreland had four RBIs.

Indians 1, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Mike Clevinger and four relievers combined on a one-hitter as Cleveland edged Kansas City.

Carlos Santana had three hits, including an RBI single in the fifth that followed Yan Gomes' double.

Clevinger (1-0), making his first start in place of injured ace Corey Kluber, gave up a one-out double to Salvador Perez in the fourth. Clevinger walked four and struck out five in 5 2/3 innings.

Bryan Shaw struck out all four batters he faced. Andrew Miller pitched a perfect eighth, keeping his ERA at 0.00 over 15 2/3 innings this season, and Cody Allen got three outs for his ninth save in nine chances. He retired Brandon Moss with two runners on to end it.

Danny Duffy (2-3), who had given up 12 runs and 19 hits over 9 2/3 innings in losing his previous two starts, held the Indians to one run over 6 2/3 innings.

Orioles 4, White Sox 0

In Baltimore, Chris Tillman pitched five sharp innings in his season debut as Baltimore beat Chicago to complete a three-game sweep.

Trey Mancini had three hits and drove in a run for the Orioles, who took an early 4-0 lead against Jose Quintana (2-5) and coasted to their fourth straight victory.

Sidelined since March with right shoulder bursitis, Tillman came off the disabled list to join an unstable rotation in need of another arm. After walking the first two batters and working out of a bases-loaded jam in the first, Tillman (1-0) bounced back nicely in his first appearance since the 2016 AL wild-card game.

Brad Brach got two outs for his seventh save.

Baltimore finished its first three-game home sweep of the White Sox in 18 years and improved to 20-10 for the first time since 2005.

Brewers 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Eric Thames broke out of his slump with a home run and three hits to send Milwaukee past Pittsburgh.

Travis Shaw and Jesus Aguilar also went deep for the Brewers. Thames connected for a solo shot in the ninth inning off Johnny Barbato, his first homer in 10 games after hitting 11 in his first 20 games. Thames had gone 4 for 27 in his last seven games.

Zach Davies (3-2) won his third straight decision as the Brewers avoided being swept in the three-game series. He allowed two runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings with seven strikeouts.

Tyler Glasnow (1-2) pitched a career-high 6 1/3 innings but took the loss. Fellow rookie Jose Osuna hit a two-run homer for the Pirates.

Blue Jays 2, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Joe Biagini and four relievers combined on a three-hitter and Darwin Barney hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning to help Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

The Blue Jays took two of three from the Rays to win a road series for the first time this season (1-4-1). It also was just the fifth time in 31 tries since 2007 that Toronto won a series at Tropicana Field (5-23-3).

Biagini allowed an unearned run, two hits and struck out four over four innings in his first major league start. The right-hander was inserted into the Toronto rotation after 74 career relief appearances due to injuries to Aaron Sanchez and J.A. Happ, and Mat Latos being designated for assignment.

Aaron Loup, Ryan Tepera (2-1), Joe Smith and Roberto Osuna combined to hold Tampa Bay to one hit over five innings. Osuna earned his fourth save.

Barney put the Blue Jays up 2-1 with his first homer of the year. He connected off Alex Cobb (2-3), who gave up four hits in eight innings.

Cardinals 6, Braves 4, 14 innings

In Atlanta, Tommy Pham hit two homers, including a two-run drive in the 14th inning as St. Louis recovered after blowing a four-run lead to complete a three-game sweep of Atlanta.

Pham's long shot in the 14th off Josh Collmenter (0-1) drove in rookie Magneuris Sierra, who reached on second baseman Jace Peterson's fielding error.

Recalled from Triple-A Memphis on Friday, Pham had a career-high four hits and drove in three runs.

Freddie Freeman's 11th homer off Brett Cecil in the eighth tied the game, completing the Braves' comeback from a 4-0 deficit.

Matt Carpenter had a first-inning homer for St. Louis. He went deep in all three games during the series.

Sam Tuivailala (1-0) tossed two scoreless innings and Kevin Siegrist got his first save.

Phillies 6, Nationals, 5, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Freddy Galvis hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to give Philadelphia a comeback win over Washington.

Pinch-hitter Aaron Altherr connected for a tying, three-run homer in the eighth and the Phillies rallied to avoid a three-game sweep.

Odubel Herrera led off the bottom of the 10th with a checked-swing double off Blake Treinen (0-1). After Altherr was intentionally walked, pitcher Vince Velasquez batted for reliever Hector Neris and reached on a bunt single. Treinen fanned Andres Blanco, but Galvis drove in the winning run with a liner to center.

Jayson Werth had four hits, including two homers, for the Nationals.

Neris (1-1) tossed two scoreless innings for the win. Galvis also hit a two-run double in the fourth.

Astros 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Jose Altuve hit a three-run homer during Houston's four-run third inning, and Evan Gattis also went deep against Los Angeles.

Mike Fiers (1-1) pitched five innings and earned his first victory of the season with a boost from the bullpen, which threw four scoreless innings of two-hit ball.

Ken Giles rebounded from a rough blown save in Anaheim on Friday to pitch the ninth for his eighth save, and the AL West leaders won for the sixth time in eight games.

Yunel Escobar hit two home runs for the Angels, who have lost four of five. Two-time AL MVP Mike Trout sat out with a tight left hamstring for the third time in four games.

Matt Shoemaker (1-2) pitched five-hit ball into the seventh, but was undone by the Astros' big inning capped by Altuve's fifth homer.

Reds 4, Giants 0

In Cincinnati, Scott Feldman pitched a four-hitter and Scott Schebler and Zack Cozart homered off Johnny Cueto as Cincinnati beat San Francisco for its season-high fifth straight win.

The Reds took three in a row for their first sweep of the Giants since 2013, outscoring them 31-5 during the series.

Feldman (2-3) was 1-5 in six career starts against the Giants going into the game. He easily handled a slumping lineup, striking out five and walking one while throwing 119 pitches. He got his first shutout since 2014 with Houston.

Cueto (4-2) was the Reds' ace for eight seasons. In two starts against them since being traded in 2015, he has given up 10 runs in 12 innings. He struck out a season-high 10 and allowed six hits over seven innings this time.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Denver, Tyler Chatwood pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning before exiting after deflecting a drive with his pitching hand, while Mark Reynolds homered for a third straight game in Colorado's rain-delayed victory over Arizona.

Pat Valaika lined a two-run homer and Charlie Blackmon added a solo shot into the second deck as the NL West leaders took two of three from the Diamondbacks.

Chatwood (3-4) was cruising until he tried to corral Daniel Descalso's infield hit to start the eighth. Greg Holland pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 13th save in as many chances.

Taijuan Walker (3-2) gave up three runs — one earned — in 5 2/3 innings.

Athletics 8, Tigers 6

In Oakland, California, Ryon Healy hit a two-run homer to cap a three-run ninth inning against Francisco Rodriguez as Oakland rallied for the second straight day to beat Detroit.

Rajai Davis drew a leadoff walk from Rodriguez (1-4), and Jed Lowrie lined a tying double. One out later, Healy hit a towering home run.

Healy's game-ending heroics came less than 24 hours after Adam Rosales hit a two-out, two-run single off Rodriguez in the ninth inning to beat the Tigers.

Yonder Alonso homered for the fifth time in six games for Oakland. It was Alonso's ninth home run this season, tying his career high set in 155 games in 2012.

Santiago Casilla (1-1) retired three batters for the win.

James McCann put the Tigers ahead with a two-run homer in the sixth.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3

In Seattle, Kyle Seager hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning as Seattle rallied late to defeat Texas.

Down 3-0, the Mariners scored three times in the seventh. Pinch-hitter Danny Valencia tied it with a two-run single.

Seager connected in the eighth off Sam Dyson (0-4) for his second homer of the season.

Marc Rzepczynski (1-0) got one out for the win. Edwin Diaz worked a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Harman's clutch birdie denies Johnson 4th straight win

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Dustin Johnson was in the clubhouse, tied for the lead and poised for a chance to join an elite class with a fourth straight PGA Tour victory. Brian Harman was on the last tee, knowing a birdie on the par-5 18th would be enough to win the Wells Fargo Championship.

Harman could have drawn it up differently, but not any better.

Switching from a 5-wood to a 3-wood for his 271-yard shot in the 18th, he went so long that he needed relief from a corporate chalet. His chip became harder because of tree limbs that made him go low, and his chip came out soft and barely got onto the green.

And then he rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt for a 4-under 68 and a one-shot victory Sunday over Johnson and Pat Perez.

"I didn't hit a great chip. It didn't turn out very good," Harman said. "But I guess it went where it was supposed to."

The greens at Eagle Point were so pure that Harman knew it was good when the ball was 5 feet from the cup. He turned and pumped his arms in a wild celebration that ended in a hug with his caddie, Scott Tway, for a victory that was a long time coming.

Harman won for the first time in nearly three years.

For Johnson, playing for the first time since a freak accident knocked him out of the Masters, it was the first time in nearly three months that he left a PGA Tour event without the trophy. It wasn't from a lack of trying. Johnson made the cut on the number, and then went 67-67 on the weekend, including a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole, to nearly pull out another victory.

"I didn't have a lot of time off, so I didn't really know what to expect this week because I didn't really get to practice leading into this tournament, either," Johnson said. "Not much has changed. The first couple days I didn't play that great, but really played nicely on Saturday and Sunday and so I'm happy with where the game is going into next week."

AP

Brian Harman reacts after his putt on the 18th hole to win the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Eagle Point Golf Club in Wilmington, N.C., Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Perez did his part, bouncing back from a double bogey on the 14th hole that took him out of the lead by making birdies on the 16th and 18th holes for a 68 that he thought might be good enough for a playoff with Johnson, the world's No. 1 player, and Harman.

"Hell of an up-and-down from back there," Perez said. "He deserves it. He played great."

Perez moves to No. 42 in the world ranking, which makes him a lock to be exempt from U.S. Open qualifying. Harman gets back to the Masters, and he doesn't mind having to wait 11 months for a return to Augusta National.

Jon Rahm of Spain was in the mix, too. Rahm, one of five players who had at least a share of the lead on the back nine, watched from the 18th fairway as the crowd that surrounded the hole and filled all three levels of a hospitality chalet erupted in cheers. He knew he needed an eagle—just like the one he made at Torrey Pines for his first PGA Tour victory—to force a playoff. He was posing. And it sailed over the green, leading to par and a 71 to finish alone in fourth.

Lost in Harman's long birdie putt for the victory were two shots that led to that moment—an 8-iron from 176 yards to 3 feet on the 14th for a tap-in birdie, and the pitching wedge from 137 yards on the 17th hole to 4 feet that put him in position for the victory.

In between was a three-putt from the par-3 15th that he thought would cost him.

"Knew it was going to be tough to birdie those last couple," Harman said. "But I stuck to my game plan and just did it. Did the best I could."

And it was just enough.

Johnson was playing for the first time in six weeks because of his slip down the stairs the day before the Masters that led to him pulling out. A quick start allowed him to lurk behind the leaders all day, and he holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th that gave him a share of the lead.

Then, he was alone in the lead when others started to stumble—Perez with a double bogey on No. 14, Harman with the three-putt bogey on the 15th and Patrick Reed, the 54-hole leader who made four bogeys in a six-hole stretch on the back nine.

Reed shot 40 on the back nine for a 75 and fell out of the top 10. He played in the final group with Alex Noren of Sweden, who closed with a 77.

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Jones, Tenorio, and Omar will be the squad's outfielders, while Mira and Iguel will join the infield crew, and Palacios will be part of the CNMI Team's bullpen.

"We still need to pick up an infielder/pitcher and a catcher to complete the roster. We are still working on selecting the officials of the team," SBL's Tony Rogolifoi said.

The players selected will also begin training for the MBC, which will run from June 26 to 30 at the Asahi Baseball Stadium in Koror. The CNMI Team will go up against host Guam, Pohnpei, and possibly Yap. Palau will also field a junior team as a guest squad, but results of its games will not be counted in the standings.

SBL initially planned to also send a junior team to Palau, but after hearing that only the host will have a U18 crew, Rogolifoi and company decided to stick with one squad.

"With this team, we are not lacking in youth, anyways. We have a lot of young players that are capable of playing in a high-level tournament," Rogolifoi said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune.*

The SBL official added that they will hold several fundraising events before the squad leaves on June 24.

A volleyball tournament was held late last month to help fund the trip of the team to Palau, while this week, SBL will hold the MBC Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Capitol Hill Ballfield. Games will be played from Thursday to Sunday and the competition has a co-ed format.

FINA

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They were very patient during the morning and afternoon classroom sessions last Friday," said Huckins, the chair of Swimming New Zealand Technical Advisory Committee. "They also did a good job officiating today's meet."

"We received a lot of good questions and I hope we answered them well and they learned from those answers. It was a fantastic experience helping the swimming community in the CNMI. Hopefully, we could see one of them officiating in international or regional tournaments in the future," Arblaster said.

At the end of the two-day course, participants took a test and received certificates of completion.

NMISF president John Hirsh thanked FINA, Huckins, and Arblaster for visiting Saipan and conducting the course.

"We're grateful and privileged to have two experts coming here to share their knowledge in officiating swim meets. They were able to provide a wealth of knowledge, not only to swimmers and other local swimming officials, but also to parents and volunteers," Hirsh said.

"One of our goals in NMISF is to raise the bar of officiating in our meets and we could only do that if our officials are equipped with the proper training and knowledge in officiating competitions. Also, we are a few years away from hosting the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and we need a lot of technical officials to help us run the swim competition in the Games," added Hirsh, who was one of the participants in the two-day course.

Meanwhile, Huckins and Arblaster had the opportunity to observe CNMI swimmers during last Saturday's meet and the former was impressed with what she saw at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

"They have very good techniques and I am sure with continued training and guidance from the coaches, we will see some of them in international competitions," Huckins said.

OFF-ISLAND

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The three pairs had similar 3-1 records in the round-robin contest, but Prudence and Zorika won the tiebreak (decided by games won/loss) with their 43-18 record, narrowly beating the 43-19 of the Vanuatu duo. Coume and Gaotee settled for No. 3 with their 42-27 slate.

In the U16 singles, Conatsu and Woo both moved into the finals, while Paik barged into the Final Four.

Conatsu finished the round-robin competition with a 4-1 record, missing the singles crown after bowing to eventual champion Rosalie Molbaleh of Vanuatu, 5-7, 1-6. Conatsu highlighted her four wins in the singles with a pair of victories via shutouts, while she and Fiji's Melody Lal were ranked third in the doubles.

In the boys U16 singles, Woo gained a finals berth after beating Paik in the semis at the lower half of the bracket, 6-3, 6-0. Woo and Paik arranged an all-CNMI semis showdown after downing the Solomon Islands' Ferguson Pitu, 6-0, 6-1, and Fiji's Shantanu Shail, 6-2, 6-3, respectively. Woo lost in the finals against No. 1 seed Marlin Hannam of Vanuatu, 4-6, 1-6. The finals defeat was Woo's only loss in the division as he earlier swept his four games in the pool play, while Paik had a 2-1 mark in the elimination. In the doubles, Woo and Paik joined forces and were in second place along with Pitu and Fiji's Gavin Moloti, but had to drop to third after losing in the tiebreak.

Meanwhile, former CNMI junior players Thea Minor and Mikayla Lopez are also doing well in the collegiate ranks.

Minor is fresh from a semis stint for the Henderson State University in The Great American Conference Tournament of the NCAA Division II. She gave HSU the tiebreaking win in the singles game against Southern Nazarene University to put her squad in the Final Four.

The former NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Year awardee played her first season with HSU and is the Reddies No. 2 singles player.

"I had a fun year. I have a very supportive team. I am looking forward to playing one more year of college tennis. Most number 1 and 2 singles players are either a junior or senior. So being there almost two and three years you can tell they have the experience and confidence at this level which makes it difficult to beat them," Minor said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

Minor made the jump from the National Junior College Athletics Association Division I where she played for New Mexico Military Institute to NCAA late last year.

Several months after Minor graduated from NMMI, another CNMI player—Mikayla Lopez—earned a slot on the Broncos roster and had an impressive showing in her season debut.

Lopez and Ghana's Francisca Nyarko won the doubles championship in the Region V of the NJCAA and the former also finished second in the singles behind the latter. Lopez and the rest of her teammates qualified, too in the NJCAA Women's National Tournament that started yesterday at the Reffkin Tennis Center in Tucson, Arizona.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	20	9	.690	—
Baltimore	20	10	.667	½
Boston	17	14	.548	4
Tampa Bay	16	17	.485	6
Toronto	11	20	.355	10

Central Division

Cleveland	17	13	.567	—
Minnesota	15	14	.517	1½
Chicago	15	15	.500	2
Detroit	15	15	.500	2
Kansas City	10	20	.333	7

West Division

Houston	21	11	.656	—
Los Angeles	16	17	.485	5½
Seattle	15	17	.469	6
Oakland	14	17	.452	6½
Texas	13	19	.406	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	21	10	.677	—
New York	14	16	.467	6½
Philadelphia	13	17	.433	7½
Miami	13	17	.433	7½
Atlanta	11	18	.379	9

Central Division

Cincinnati	17	14	.548	—
St. Louis	16	14	.533	½
Chicago	16	15	.516	1
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	1½
Pittsburgh	14	17	.452	3

West Division

Colorado	20	12	.625	—
Los Angeles	17	14	.548	2½
Arizona	18	15	.545	2½
San Diego	12	20	.375	8
San Francisco	11	21	.344	9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League

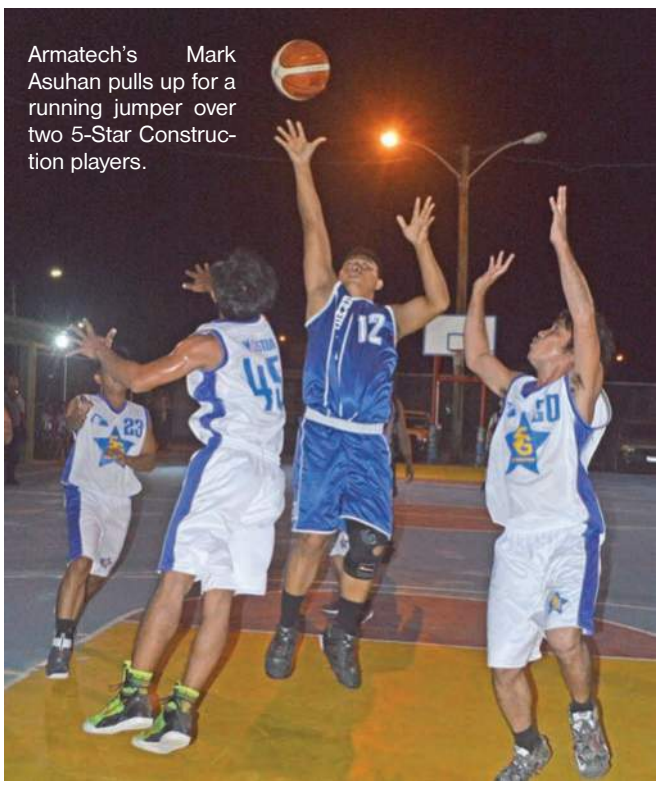
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Stephen's Pawnshop's Mii Tekopua drives past Kagman defenders during their game in the in the 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League at the San Antonio court.

A Kagman player looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as he is up against two Stephen's Pawnshop defenders.

Cuadro CP's Marvin Rabauliman keeps the ball away from Ali'i Blue Haus' Darwin Barbo.

JCN's Celio Bisana drives against three Kagman defenders.



Armatech's Mark Asuhan pulls up for a running jumper over two 5-Star Construction players.

Ali'i Blue Haus' Brendon Talania pulls up for an off-balance shot against Cuadro CP's Joy Dayrit.

A JCN player dishes off to his teammate as he faces two *Marianas Variety* defenders.

SSFM's Andrew Palino, left, tries to dribble past *Marianas Variety's* Angelo Factor.

LeBron James scores 35 points, Cavaliers sweep Raptors

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Sports

Mets crushed after Harvey suspended

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Off-island tennis players doing well

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Conatsu Kaga serves to Malika Miyawaki during a local tournament last year at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts before she and three other CNMI players left for Fiji to train.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's off-island players are proving they are worthy of the scholarships they received after delivering in their respective competitions recently.

Siblings Coume and Conatsu Kaga, Ji Min Woo, and Seung Jin Paik, who are in Fiji after getting a scholarship to train at the ITF/OTF Regional Training Center in Lautoka, played in the 2017 West Pacific Regional Championships last week and had notable performances in both the singles and doubles events.

Coume topped the girls U14 singles contest, sweeping all her matches (4-0) in Pool B and winning three more games in the playoffs to rule the 10-player field. The No. 3 seed Coume clinched the singles championships after pulling off an upset over No. 2 Morgan Zorika of Solomon Islands in the finals, 6-1, 7-5. The CNMI bet, who did not drop a single set in the pool play, marched into the title game after eliminating Papua New Guinea's Marawa Kota, 6-3, 6-1, and outlasting Solomon Islands and No. 4 Bird Prudence, 6-1, 3-6, 10-5.

In the doubles, Coume teamed up with the Solomon Islands' Marion Gaotee and they were in a three-way tie for first place with Prudence and Zorila and Vanuatu's Desiree Signo and Naomie Sipiti.

See OFF-ISLAND on Page 26

19 make it to MBC-bound CNMI Team

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Ben Jones dives to home plate and looks at the umpire during their title game against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League has named the members of the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2nd Micronesian Baseball Classic in Palau next month.

The squad, which will be facing a tough task in Palau as it has to defend the title the Commonwealth won last year, is mostly made up of young guns and has seven players who were part of the team that defeated Guam in the finals during the inaugural MBC that Saipan hosted. Returning for another tour of duty with the CNMI are the Chalan Kanoa Bears' Henry Lizama Jr., BSI Aces' Ben Jones Jr. and Lamarc Iguel, Go See Mark's Anthony Tenorio and Tyrone Omar, Titanium's Joe Palacios, and the Falcons' Giovanni Mira. Completing the initial roster are pitchers Nathan Guerrero of GSM, Manny Cabrera of BSI Aces, and M.J. Sakisat, and Richard Atalig, Jr. of the D-9ers; catcher Virgil Secharmidal of the Blue Jays; and infielders' Angel Palacios of the CK Bears, Nathan Camacho and Jhace Palacios of Titanium; Jesus Iguel of the BSI Aces, Jesse Brel of GSM, Ian Norita of the Falcons, and the Comets' Jobe Reyes; Lizama,

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FINA holds technical official course on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two members of the FINA Technical Swimming Committee were on Saipan last week to hold a technical official course.

Lesley Huckins, who is also the president of Swimming New Zealand, and Australia's Ryan Arblaster conducted a two-day course attended by more than 20 swimmers/parents/officials from Saipan Swim Club, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, and Dolphin Club Saipan. The visitors had an eight-hour discussion with the participants last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, focusing on theories on officiating swim competitions. Then Saturday's three-hour session had participants putting into practice what they have learned in the classroom discussion as they officiated the last local swim meet under the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's calendar of events for 2016-2017.

"We had a very good response from the participants.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Australia's Ryan Arblaster, standing second right, and Swimming New Zealand president Lesley Huckins are about to start the last session of the technical swim course they conducted last weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.